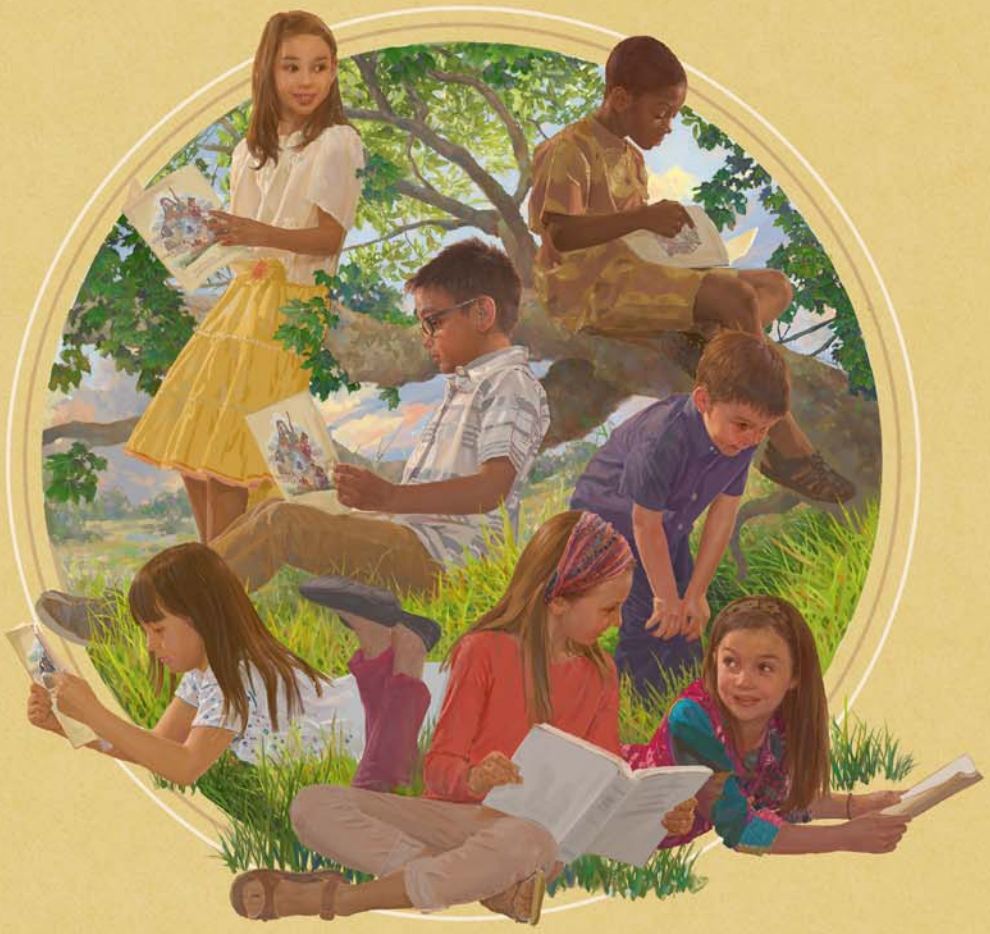
Lessons you can learn from the Bible



“From infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation.”

—2 TIMOTHY 3:15

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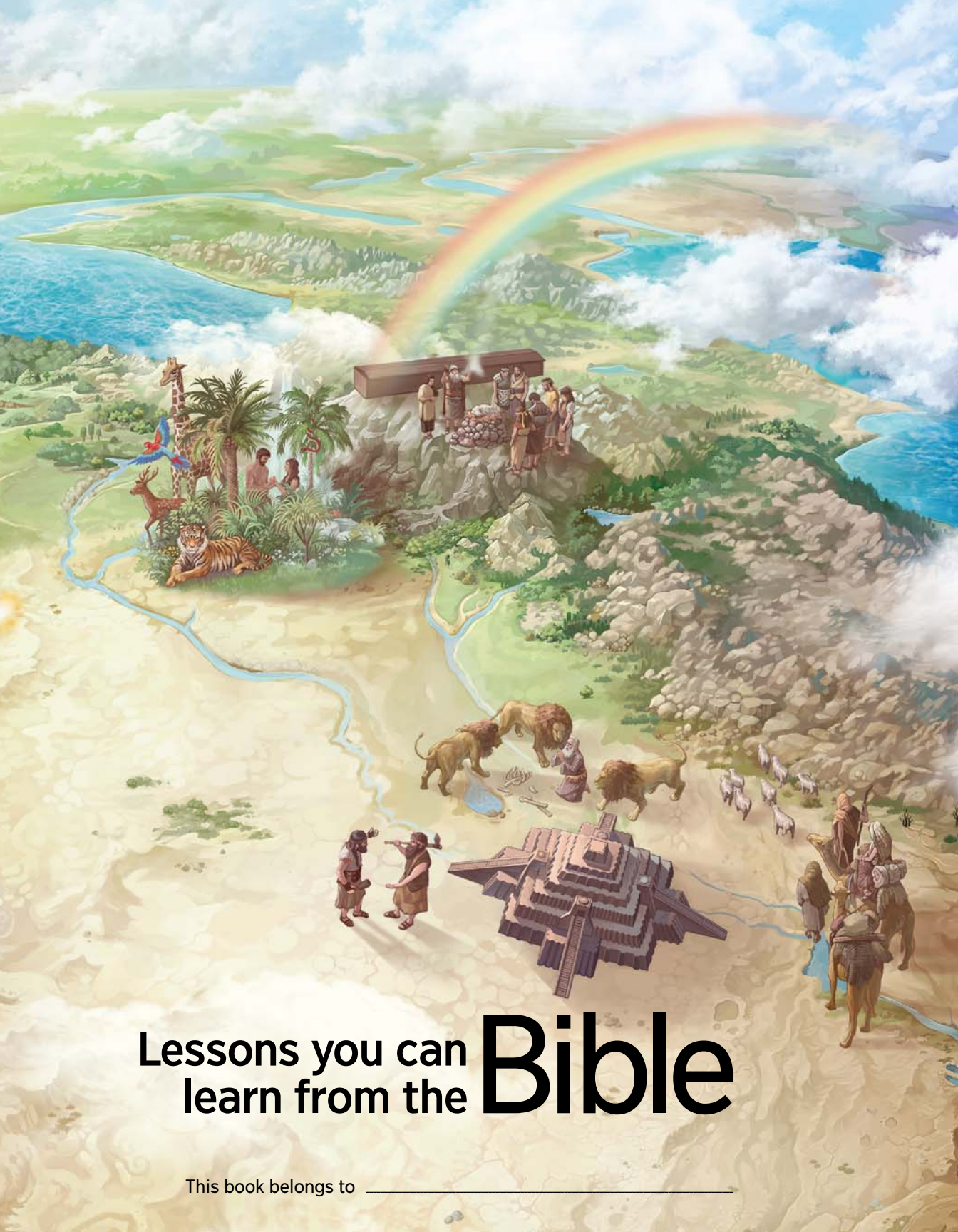

Lessons you can learn from the Bible

This book belongs to _____

Dear Fellow Believers:

As worshippers of Jehovah, we love his Word, the Bible. We are convinced that it provides accurate history, reliable guidance for living, and heartwarming evidence of Jehovah's love for the human family. (Psalm 119:105; Luke 1:3; 1 John 4:19) We deeply desire to help others learn the precious truths contained in God's Word. To that end, we are very pleased to make available this book, "Lessons You Can Learn From the Bible." Allow us to tell you a little about it.

For the most part, this book has been prepared with children in mind. However, it can also be used to help adults who desire to learn more about the Bible. And since the Bible is a book for everyone, no doubt all of us will benefit from reviewing its lessons, which can help us to be truly happy.

Using accounts from the Bible, this book tells the story of the human family from creation onward. Every effort has been made to present the Bible accounts in a clear and simple manner and, as far as possible, in the order in which they occurred.

This book, however, does more than merely relate Bible accounts. Both the text and the artwork have been prepared in a way that brings the Bible accounts to life and captures the feelings of those depicted.

This publication helps us to see how the Bible is a book about people—those who obeyed Jehovah and those who did not. And it prompts us to draw lessons from their examples. (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6) The book is divided into 14 sections. At the

beginning of each section is a summary of some of the lessons that we can learn.

If you are a parent, you might read a lesson with your child and discuss the related artwork. Then the two of you could read the Bible passages that the lesson is based on. Help your child to connect what he or she reads in the Bible with the lesson in the book. A similar approach may be effective when helping an adult to get an overview of the Bible's message.

It is our hope that this publication will help all righthearted ones —young and old—to learn from God's Word and to apply its lessons in their life. As a result, they too can worship him as members of his beloved family.

Your brothers,

Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses

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1 The Bible begins with its account of physical creation, opening our eyes to the beautiful things that Jehovah made, both in heaven and on earth. If you are a parent, help your child to see the amazing diversity in creation. Point out how God created humans to be far superior to animals, giving us the ability to talk, to reason, to invent things, to sing, and to pray. Build appreciation for Jehovah's power and wisdom and especially his love for all his creation—including each one of us.

KEY LESSONS

- Jehovah and his Son made the earth to be our home
- Jehovah made the family arrangement by creating man and woman and giving them the ability to have children
- It is Jehovah's purpose that humans live forever in peace and harmony

1 God Made Heaven and Earth

Jehovah God is our Creator. He made everything, both the things we can see and the things we cannot see. Before he made the things we can see, he made many, many angels. Do you know what angels are? Angels are persons that Jehovah made who are like himself. We cannot see them, just as we cannot see God. The first angel Jehovah made became his helper. That angel helped when Jehovah made the stars, the planets, and all other things. One of those planets, the earth, is our beautiful home.

Then Jehovah got the earth ready for animals and humans to live on. He made the sun's light shine on the earth. He made mountains, oceans, and rivers.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." —Genesis 1:1

What happened next? Jehovah said: 'I am going to make grass and plants and trees.' Many different kinds of fruits, vegetables, and flowers began to grow. Then Jehovah made all the animals—animals that fly, swim, crawl, and creep. He made small ones, such as rabbits, and large ones, such as elephants. What is your favorite animal?

Then Jehovah said to the first angel: "Let us make man." Humans would be different from animals. They could invent things. They could speak, laugh, and pray. They would

look after the earth and the animals. Do you know who the first man was? Let us see.

Questions: Who is Jehovah God? What did Jehovah make?

Genesis 1:1-26; Proverbs 8:30, 31; Jeremiah 10:12; Colossians 1:15-17

2 God Made the First Man and Woman

Jehovah planted a garden in a place called Eden. The garden was full of flowers, trees, and animals. Then God made the first man, Adam, out of dust and blew into his nostrils. Do you know what happened? The man became a living person! Jehovah put Adam in charge of the garden, and God told him to give names to all the animals.

Jehovah gave Adam an important rule. He told Adam: ‘You can eat fruit from all the trees except for one special tree. If you eat fruit from that tree, you will die.’

Later Jehovah said: ‘I am going to make a helper for Adam.’ He made Adam fall into a deep sleep, and then God used one of Adam’s ribs to create a wife for Adam. Her name was Eve. Adam and Eve became the first family. How did Adam feel about his new wife? Adam was so happy that he said:

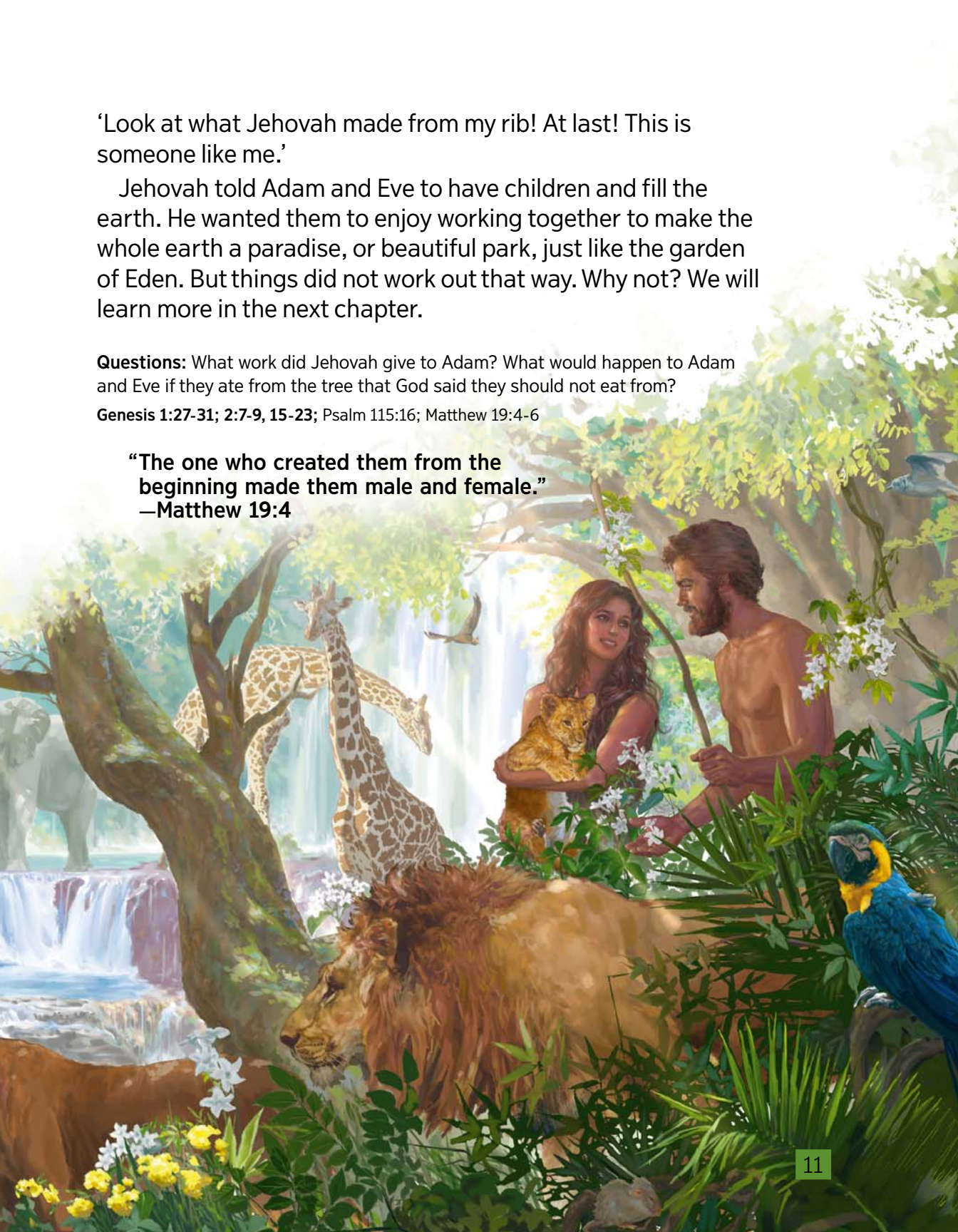
‘Look at what Jehovah made from my rib! At last! This is someone like me.’

Jehovah told Adam and Eve to have children and fill the earth. He wanted them to enjoy working together to make the whole earth a paradise, or beautiful park, just like the garden of Eden. But things did not work out that way. Why not? We will learn more in the next chapter.

Questions: What work did Jehovah give to Adam? What would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate from the tree that God said they should not eat from?

Genesis 1:27-31; 2:7-9, 15-23; Psalm 115:16; Matthew 19:4-6

“The one who created them from the beginning made them male and female.” —Matthew 19:4



2

Why did Jehovah bring about a flood that destroyed the world of that time? Early in human history, a battle began—the battle between good and evil. Some individuals, such as Adam, Eve, and their son Cain, chose the side of evil. A few others, such as Abel and Noah, chose the side of good. Most people became so bad that Jehovah brought an end to that wicked world. This section will help us to learn that Jehovah sees which side we choose and that he will never allow the evil to conquer the good.

KEY LESSONS

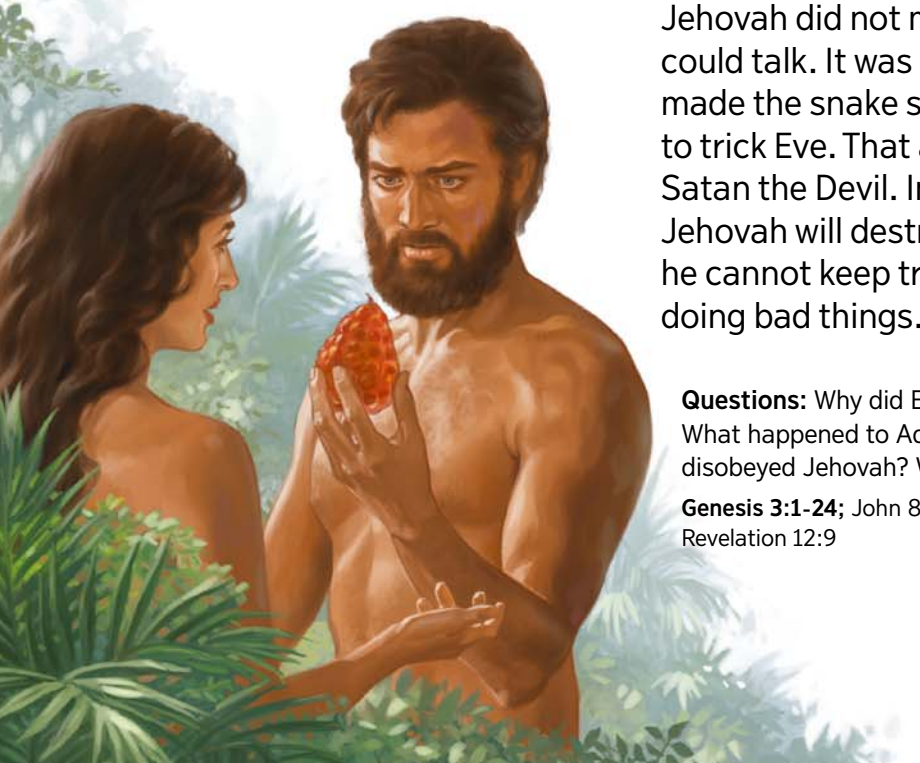
- We should be peaceable, not violent like the Devil and his followers
- If we listen to God and obey him, as Noah did, we can live forever in happiness
- Jehovah sees everything that happens. Righteousness brings joy to his heart, but wickedness makes him sad

3 Adam and Eve Disobeyed God

One day when Eve was by herself, a snake spoke to her. It said: ‘Is it true that God won’t let you eat from all of the trees?’ Eve said: ‘We can eat from all of the trees except for one. If we eat the fruit from that tree, we will die.’ The snake said: ‘You will not die. In fact, if you eat from it, you will be like God.’ Was that true? No, it was a lie. But Eve believed it. The more Eve looked at the fruit, the more she wanted it. She ate the fruit and gave some to Adam. He knew that they would die if they disobeyed God. But Adam ate the fruit anyway.

Later that day, Jehovah spoke to Adam and Eve. He asked them why they had disobeyed him. Eve blamed the snake, and Adam blamed Eve. Because Adam and Eve had disobeyed him, Jehovah put them out of the garden. To make sure that they would never go back in, he put angels and a sword of fire at the entrance.

Jehovah said that the one who lied to Eve would also be punished. It was not really the snake that spoke to Eve. Jehovah did not make snakes that could talk. It was a bad angel who made the snake speak. He did this to trick Eve. That angel is called Satan the Devil. In the future, Jehovah will destroy Satan so that he cannot keep tricking people into doing bad things.



Questions: Why did Eve eat the fruit? What happened to Adam and Eve after they disobeyed Jehovah? Who is Satan the Devil?

Genesis 3:1-24; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:9

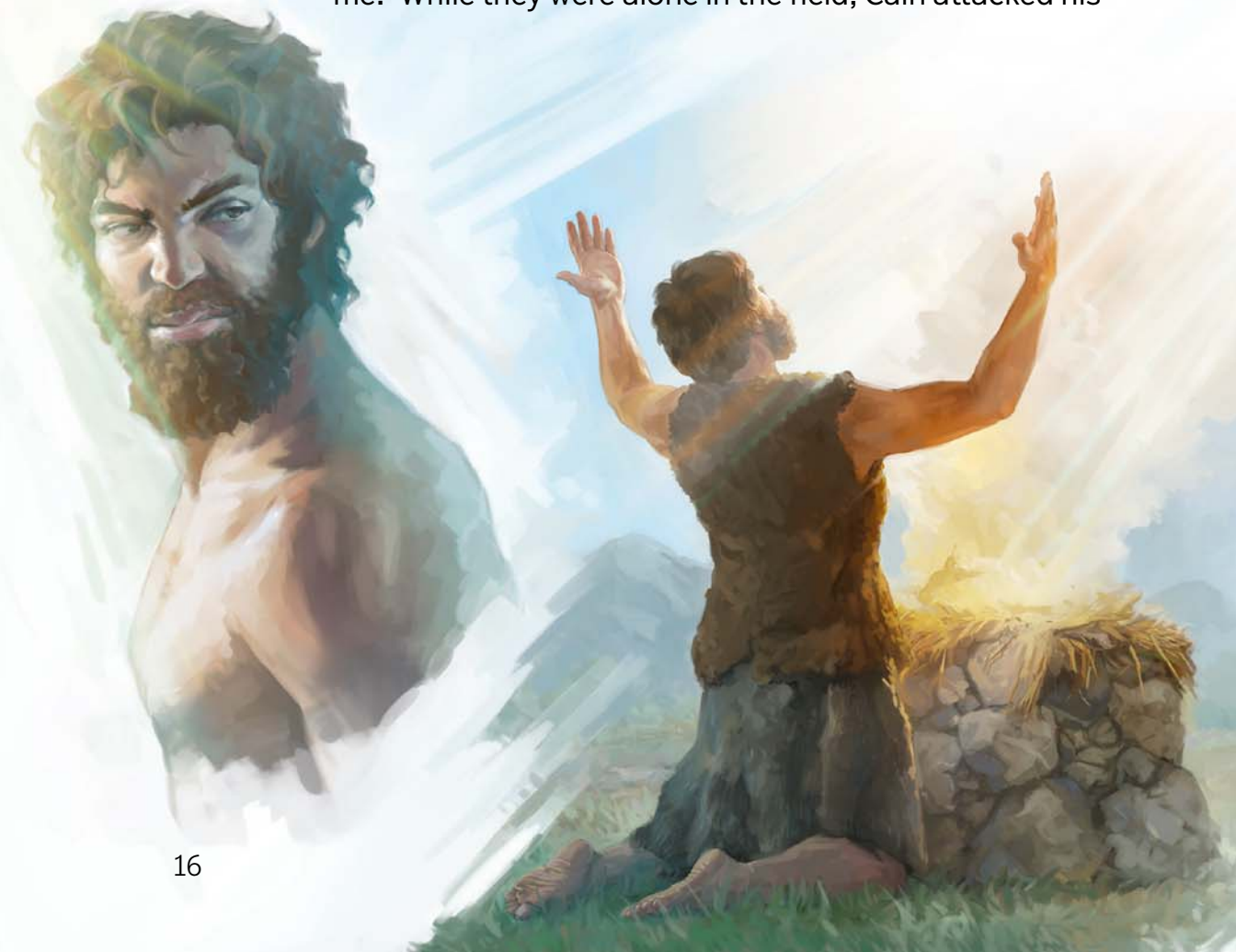
“The Devil . . . was a murderer from the beginning, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him.” —John 8:44, footnote

4 From Anger to Murder

After Adam and Eve left the garden of Eden, they had many children. Their first son, Cain, became a farmer, and their second son, Abel, became a shepherd.

One day Cain and Abel made offerings to Jehovah. Do you know what an offering is? It is a special kind of gift. Jehovah was happy with Abel's offering, but he was not happy with Cain's. That made Cain very angry. Jehovah warned Cain that his anger could make him do something bad. But Cain did not listen.

Instead, Cain said to Abel: 'Come over to the field with me.' While they were alone in the field, Cain attacked his



"First make your peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift." —Matthew 5:24

brother and killed him. What would Jehovah do about this? Jehovah punished Cain by sending him far away from his family. Cain would never be allowed to come back.

Is there a lesson here for us? We might start to feel angry if things don't go the way we think they should. If we feel anger growing inside of us—or if others warn us because they notice our anger—we should quickly adjust and control our emotions before they control us.

Because Abel loved Jehovah and did what was right, Jehovah will always remember him. God will bring Abel back to life when He makes the earth a paradise.

Questions: Who were Adam and Eve's first two children? Why did Cain kill his brother?

Genesis 4:1-12; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:11, 12

5 Noah's Ark

In time, there came to be many people on the earth. Most of them were bad. Even some of the angels in heaven became bad. They left their home in heaven and came down to the earth. Do you know why they did that? So that they could take on human bodies and marry women.

The angels and the women had sons together. Those sons grew up to be very strong and became bullies. They hurt people. Jehovah could not let those things continue to happen. So he decided to destroy the bad people in a flood.

But there was a man who was different. He loved Jehovah. His name was Noah. He had a wife and three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and each of his sons had a wife. Jehovah told Noah to build a big ark so that he and his family could survive the Flood. An ark is a huge box that can float on water. Jehovah also told Noah to bring many animals inside the ark so that they could survive too.

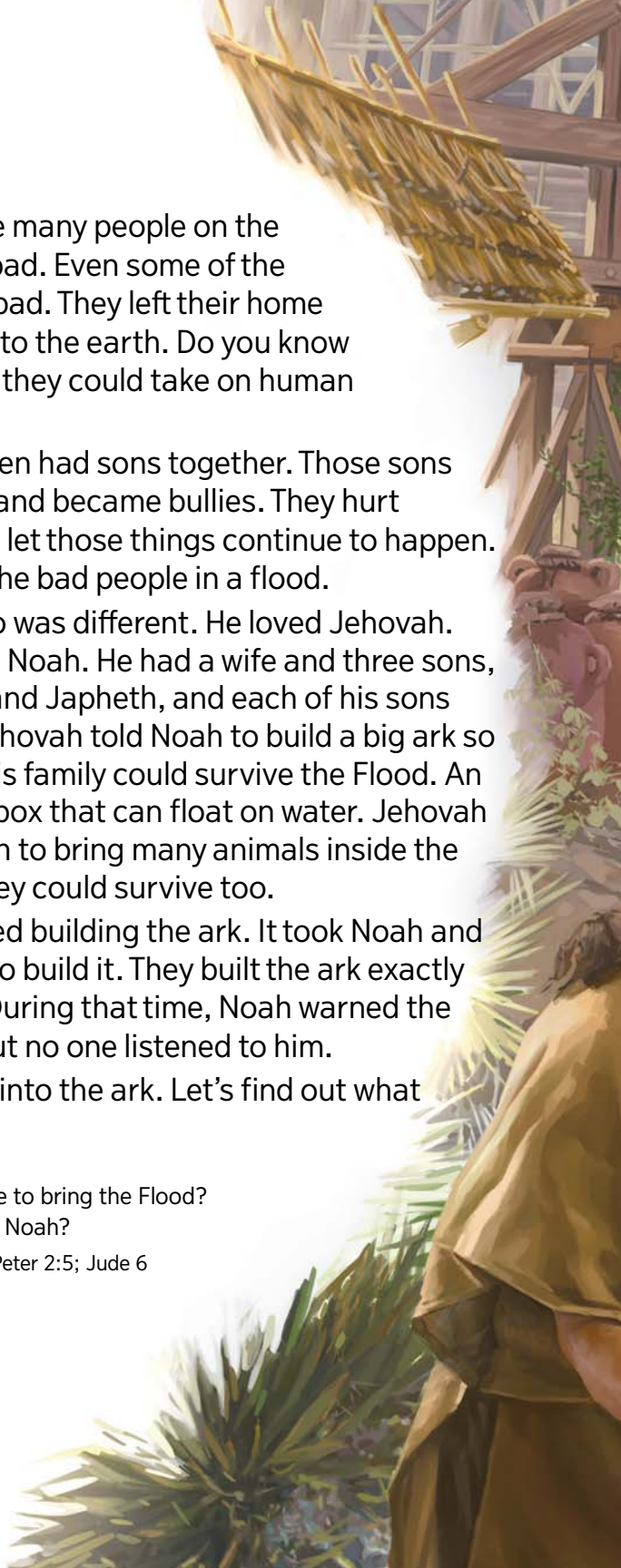
"Just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be." —Matthew 24:37

Noah immediately started building the ark. It took Noah and his family about 50 years to build it. They built the ark exactly as Jehovah told them to. During that time, Noah warned the people about the Flood. But no one listened to him.

Finally, it was time to go into the ark. Let's find out what happened next.

Questions: Why did Jehovah decide to bring the Flood? What instructions did Jehovah give Noah?

Genesis 6:1-22; Matthew 24:37-41; 2 Peter 2:5; Jude 6



6 Eight Survive Into a New World

Noah, his family, and the animals went into the ark. Jehovah closed the door, and it began to rain. It rained so much that the ark started to float. Eventually, the whole earth was covered with water. Outside the ark, all the bad people died. But Noah and his family were safe inside. Can you imagine how glad they were that they had obeyed Jehovah?

Rain poured down for 40 days and 40 nights, and then it stopped. Slowly the water went down. Finally, the ark settled on the mountains. But there was still a lot of water everywhere, so Noah and his family could not leave the ark right away.

Little by little, the water dried up. Altogether Noah and his family were inside the ark for more than a year. Then Jehovah told them that they could go out of the ark into what seemed like a new world. They were very thankful that Jehovah had saved them, and they showed it by making an offering to Jehovah.

"Noah entered into the ark, and [people] took no note until the Flood came and swept them all away." —Matthew 24:38, 39

Jehovah was happy with this offering. He promised that he would never again destroy everything on the earth in a flood. As a sign of that promise, he made the first rainbow appear in the sky. Have you ever seen a rainbow?

Then Jehovah told Noah and his family to have children and fill the earth.

Questions: What happened after Jehovah closed the door of the ark? What should a rainbow remind us of?

Genesis 7:1–9:17

3 In the years following the Flood, the Bible names very few people who served Jehovah. Among those who did serve him was Abraham, who was known as Jehovah's friend. Why was he called Jehovah's friend? If you are a parent, help your child to see that Jehovah is interested in him personally and wants to help him. Like Abraham and other faithful men, such as Lot and Jacob, we can freely ask Jehovah for his help. We can be confident that Jehovah will keep every promise that he makes.

KEY LESSONS

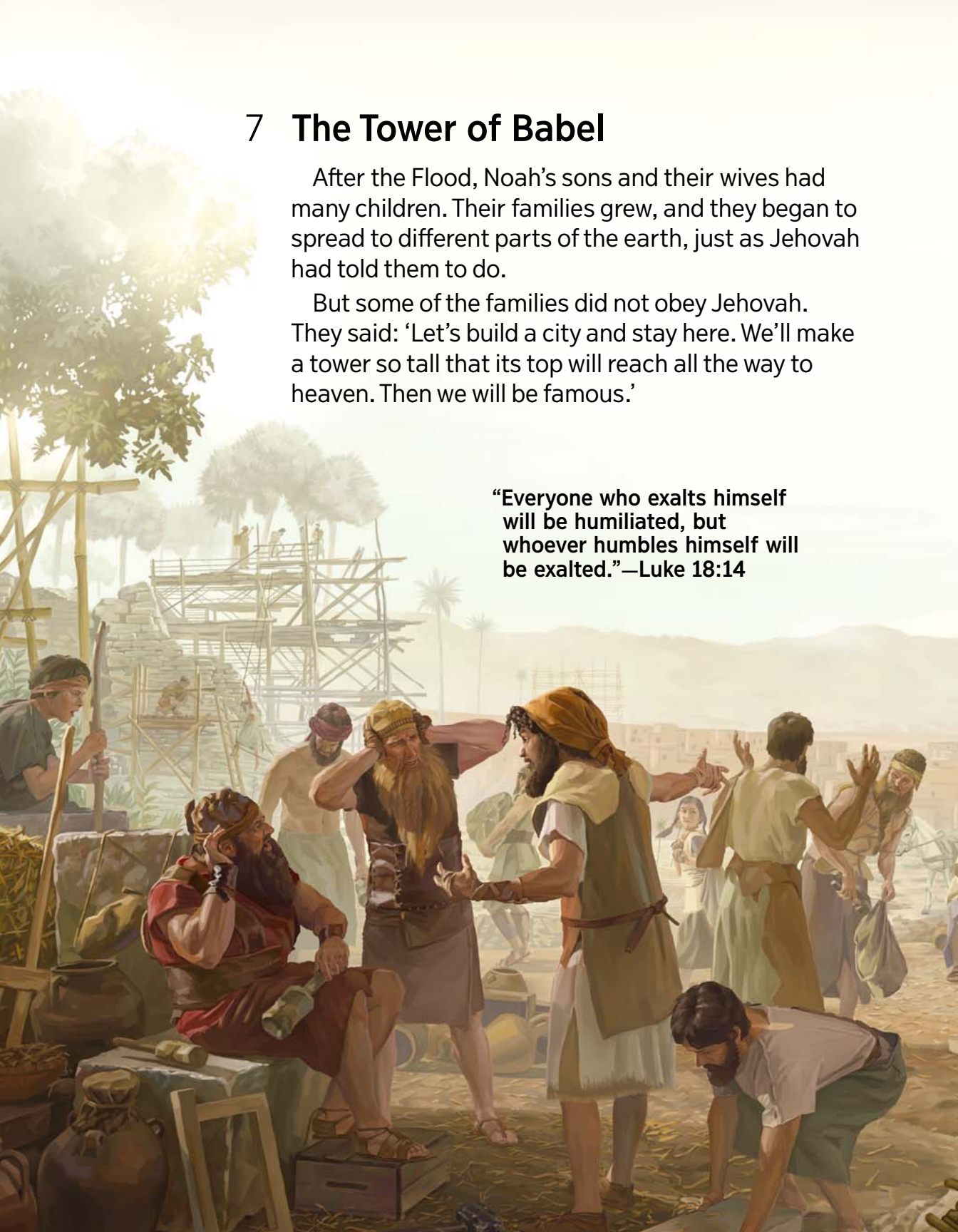
- Do whatever Jehovah asks of you, even if it is not easy
- Friendship with God is more valuable than anything else
- It is important to Jehovah that we forgive others and make peace as soon as possible

7 The Tower of Babel

After the Flood, Noah's sons and their wives had many children. Their families grew, and they began to spread to different parts of the earth, just as Jehovah had told them to do.

But some of the families did not obey Jehovah. They said: 'Let's build a city and stay here. We'll make a tower so tall that its top will reach all the way to heaven. Then we will be famous.'

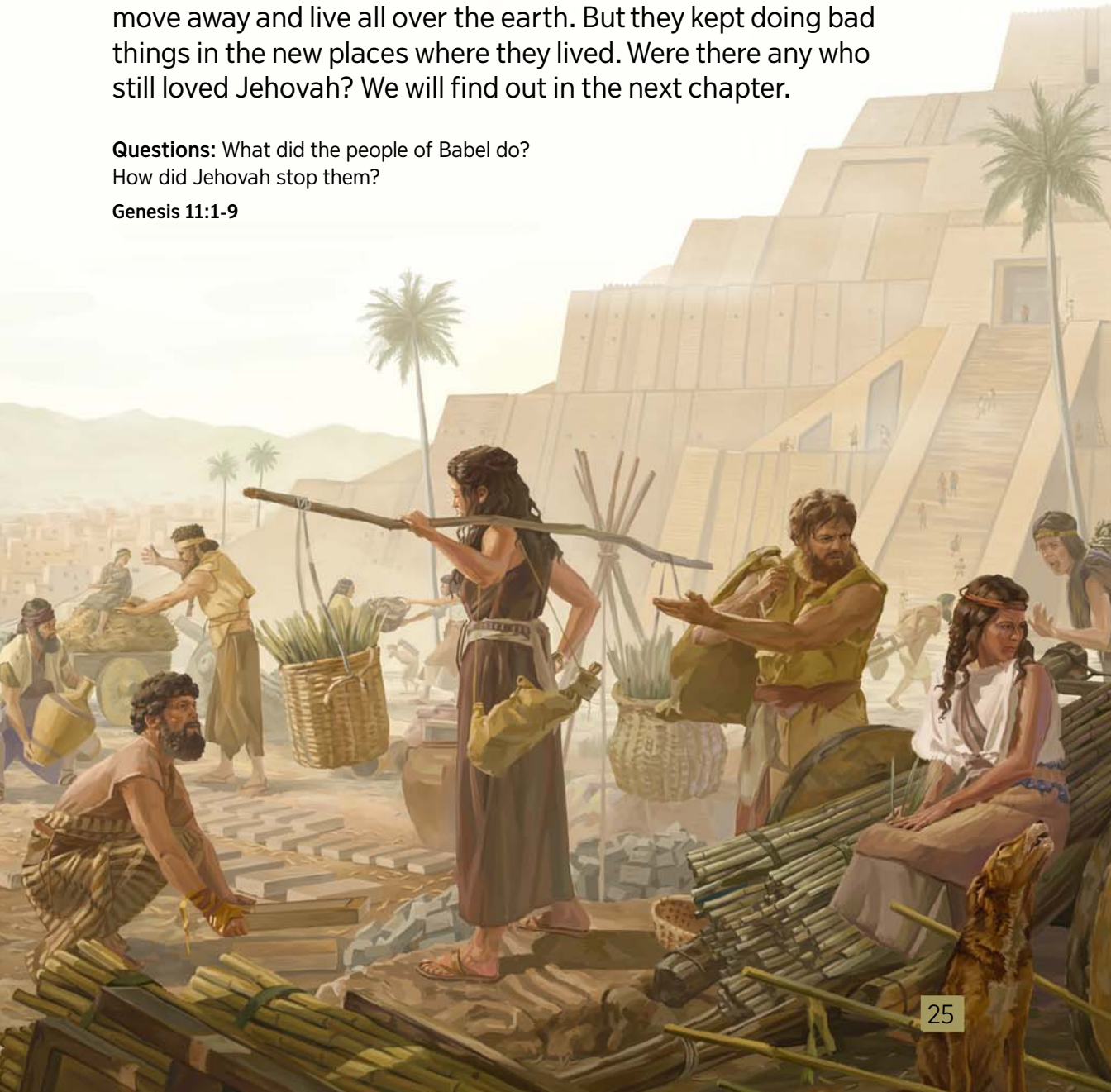
"Everyone who exalts himself will be humiliated, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."—Luke 18:14



Jehovah was not happy with what those people were doing, so he decided to stop them. Do you know how he did it? He suddenly made them speak different languages. Since they could no longer understand one another, they stopped the building work. The city that they had been building became known as Babel, which means "Confusion." People began to move away and live all over the earth. But they kept doing bad things in the new places where they lived. Were there any who still loved Jehovah? We will find out in the next chapter.

Questions: What did the people of Babel do? How did Jehovah stop them?

Genesis 11:1-9



8 Abraham and Sarah Obeyed God

Not too far from Babel was a city called Ur, where people worshipped many gods other than Jehovah. But there was a man in Ur who worshipped only Jehovah. His name was Abraham.

Jehovah said to Abraham: ‘Leave your home and your relatives, and go to the land that I will show you.’ Then God promised: ‘You will become a large nation, and I will do good things for many people all over the earth because of you.’

Abraham did not know where Jehovah was sending him, but he trusted in Jehovah. So Abraham, his wife Sarah, his father Terah, and his nephew Lot packed their things and obediently began their long trip.

Abraham was 75 years old when he and his family finally arrived in the land that Jehovah wanted them to see. It was called the land of Canaan. There God spoke to Abraham and made this promise: ‘All this land you see around you, I will give to your children.’ But Abraham and Sarah were old and did not have any children. So how would Jehovah make his promise come true?

Questions: What did Jehovah ask Abraham to do? What did Jehovah promise Abraham?

Genesis 11:29–12:9; Acts 7:2-4; Galatians 3:6; Hebrews 11:8

“By faith Abraham . . . obeyed by going out to a place he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, although not knowing where he was going.”—Hebrews 11:8

9 A Son At Last!

Abraham and Sarah had been married for many years. They had left their comfortable home in Ur and were living in a tent. But Sarah did not complain, because she trusted in Jehovah.

Sarah wanted a child so much that she told Abraham: ‘If my servant Hagar has a child, it could be like my own.’ In time, Hagar did have a son. His name was Ishmael.

Many years later, when Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89, they had three visitors. Abraham invited them to rest under a tree and share a meal. Do you know who the visitors were? They were angels! They told Abraham: ‘Next year at this time, you and your wife will have a son.’ Sarah was listening from inside the tent. She laughed to herself and thought: ‘Can I really have a child even though I am so old?’

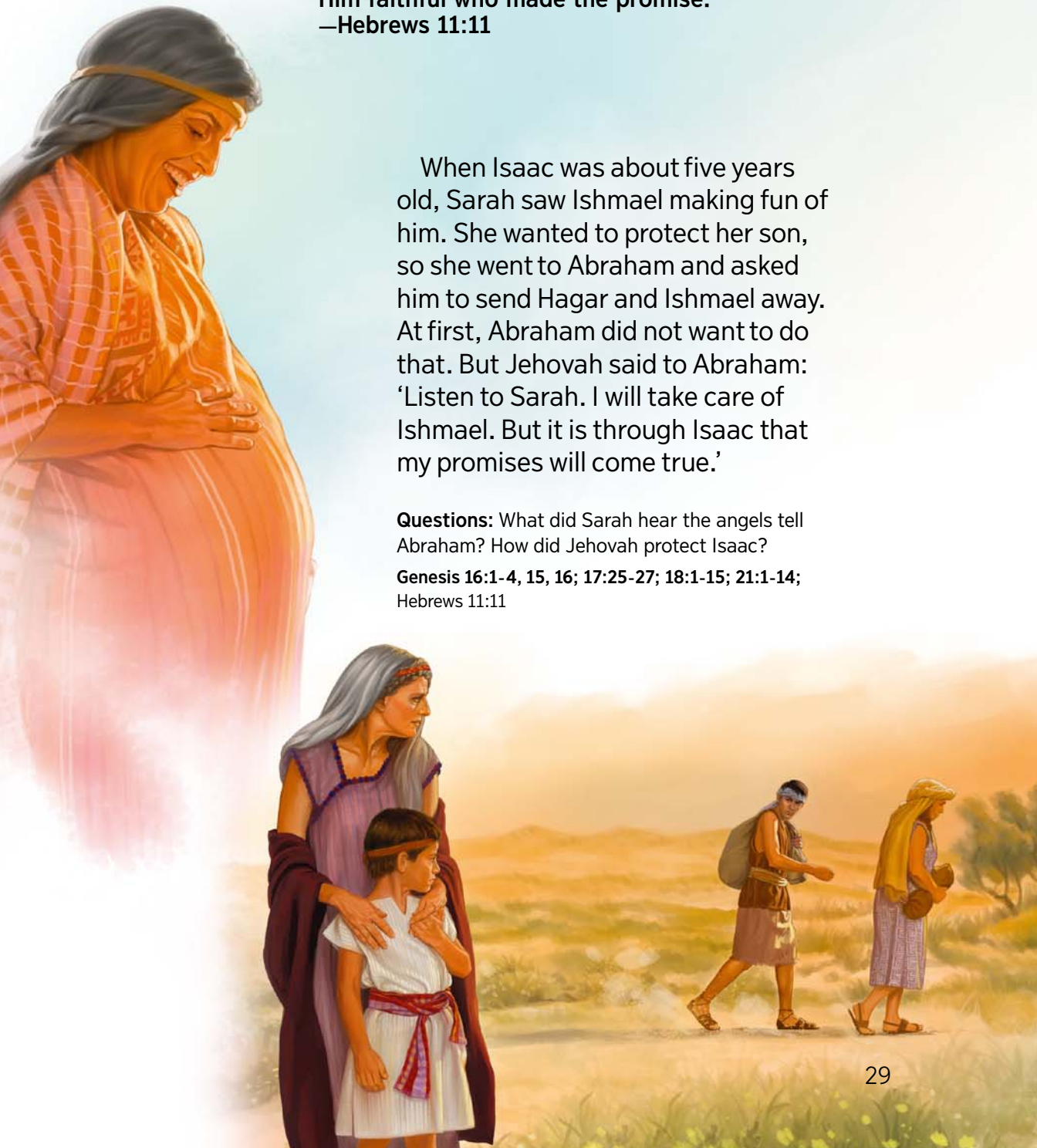
The next year, Sarah gave birth to a son, just as Jehovah’s angel had promised. Abraham named him Isaac, which means “Laughter.”

“By faith also Sarah received power to conceive offspring, . . . since she considered Him faithful who made the promise.” —Hebrews 11:11

When Isaac was about five years old, Sarah saw Ishmael making fun of him. She wanted to protect her son, so she went to Abraham and asked him to send Hagar and Ishmael away. At first, Abraham did not want to do that. But Jehovah said to Abraham: ‘Listen to Sarah. I will take care of Ishmael. But it is through Isaac that my promises will come true.’

Questions: What did Sarah hear the angels tell Abraham? How did Jehovah protect Isaac?

Genesis 16:1-4, 15, 16; 17:25-27; 18:1-15; 21:1-14; Hebrews 11:11



10 Remember the Wife of Lot

Lot lived with Abraham, his uncle, in the land of Canaan. Eventually, Abraham and Lot had so many animals that there was not enough land for all of them. Abraham said to Lot: ‘We can no longer live together in one place. Please choose which way you would like to go, and I will go the other way.’ That was unselfish of Abraham, wasn’t it?

Lot saw a beautiful part of the land near a city called Sodom. There was plenty of water as well as green grass. So he chose that place and moved his family there.

The people of Sodom and of the nearby city of Gomorrah were very bad. In fact, they were so bad that Jehovah decided to destroy those cities. But God wanted to save Lot and his family, so he sent two angels to warn them: ‘Hurry! Get out of this city! Jehovah is going to destroy it.’

Lot did not leave right away. He kept on delaying. So the angels took Lot, his wife, and his two daughters by the hand and rushed them out of the city, saying: ‘Run! Escape for your life, and do not look back. If you look back, you will die!’

When they arrived at the city called Zoar, Jehovah made it rain fire and sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah. Those two cities were completely destroyed. When Lot’s wife disobeyed

“Remember the wife of Lot.”
—Luke 17:32

Jehovah and looked back, she turned into a pillar of salt! But Lot and his daughters were safe because they had obeyed Jehovah. They must have been very sad that Lot’s wife had disobeyed. But they were glad that they had listened to Jehovah’s instructions.

Questions: Why did Jehovah destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Why did Lot’s wife turn into a pillar of salt?

Genesis 13:1-13; 19:1-26; Luke 17:28, 29, 32; 2 Peter 2:6-9

11 A Test of Faith

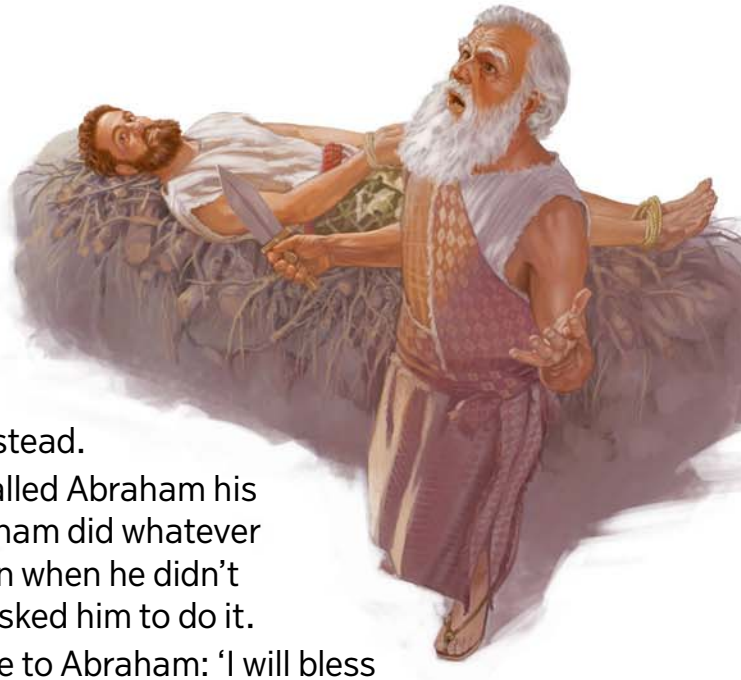
Abraham taught his son Isaac to love Jehovah and to trust all of Jehovah's promises. But when Isaac was about 25 years old, Jehovah asked Abraham to do something that would be very hard to do. What was it?

God told Abraham: 'Please, take your only son and offer him as a sacrifice on a mountain in the land of Moriah.' Abraham had no idea why Jehovah had asked him to do that. But he still obeyed Jehovah.

Early the next morning, Abraham took Isaac and two servants and went toward Moriah. After three days, they could see the mountains in the distance. Abraham told his servants to wait while he and Isaac went off to offer a sacrifice. Abraham gave Isaac firewood to carry, and Abraham took a knife. Isaac asked his father: 'Where is the animal that we will sacrifice?' Abraham answered: 'My son, Jehovah will provide it.'

When they finally arrived at the mountain, they built an altar. Then Abraham tied Isaac's hands and feet and put him on the altar.

Abraham picked up the knife. At that moment, Jehovah's angel called from the heavens:



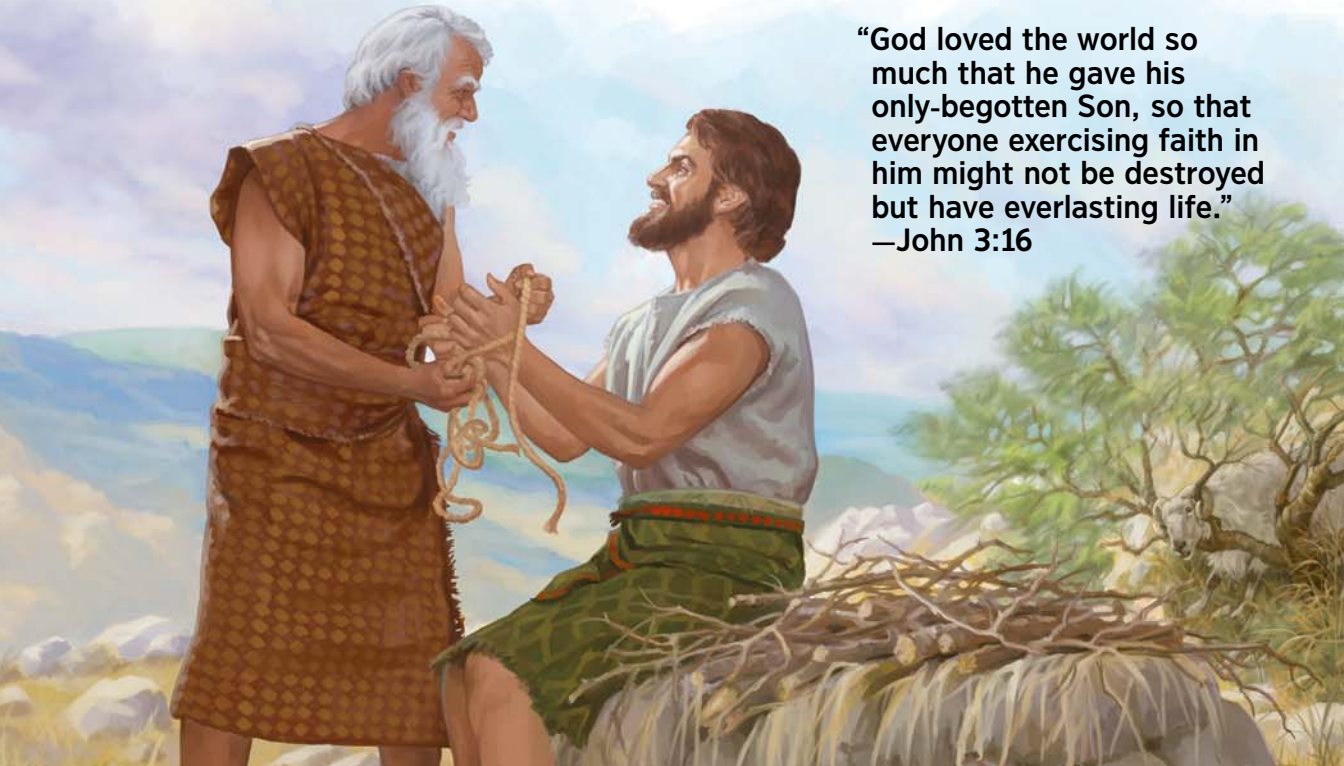
‘Abraham! Do not harm the boy! Now I know that you have faith in God because you were willing to sacrifice your son.’ Then Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in the bushes. He quickly untied Isaac and sacrificed the ram instead.

From that day on, Jehovah called Abraham his friend. Do you know why? Abraham did whatever Jehovah wanted him to do, even when he didn’t understand why Jehovah had asked him to do it.

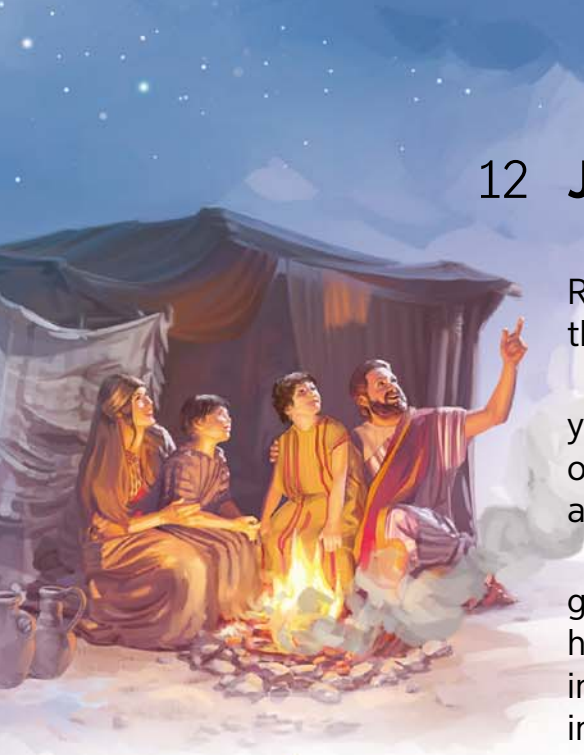
Jehovah repeated his promise to Abraham: ‘I will bless you, and I will multiply your children, or offspring.’ This meant that Jehovah would bless all good people through Abraham’s family.

Questions: How did Abraham prove that he trusted in Jehovah? What did Jehovah promise Abraham?

Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19; James 2:21-23



“God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.” —John 3:16

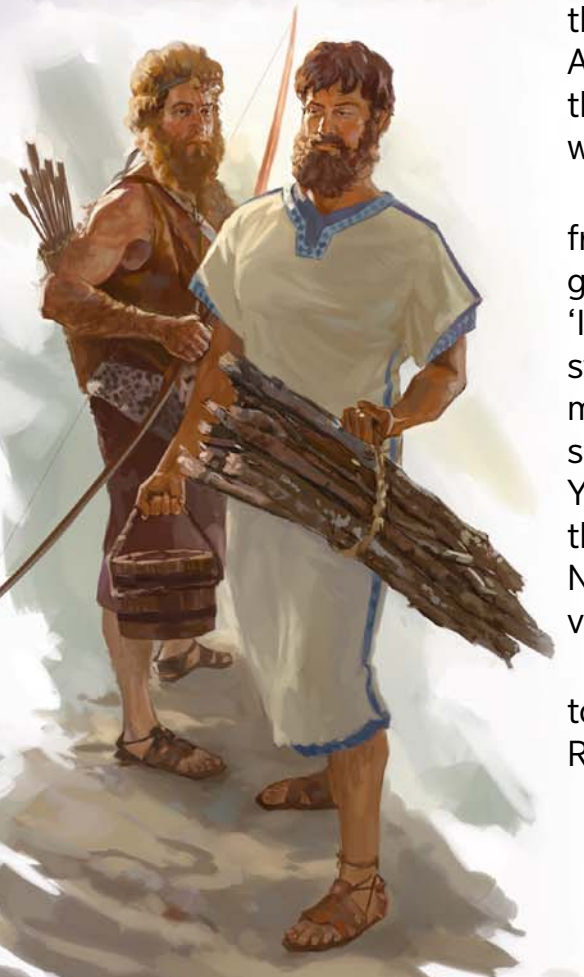


12 Jacob Got the Inheritance

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. He loved her very much. In time, they had two children—twin boys.

The older boy was called Esau, and the younger one, Jacob. Esau loved being outdoors, and he was good at hunting animals. But Jacob liked to stay at home.

In those days, the oldest son was given most of the land and money when his father died. That was called an inheritance. In Isaac's family, the inheritance also included having a part in the promises that Jehovah had made to Abraham. Esau did not care much about those promises, but Jacob knew that they were very important.



One day Esau came home very tired from a long day of hunting. He smelled the good food Jacob was cooking and said: 'I'm starving! Give me some of that red stew!' Jacob said: 'I will, but first promise me that I can have your inheritance.' Esau said: 'I don't care about my inheritance! You can have it. I just want to eat.' Do you think that was a wise thing for Esau to do? No, it wasn't. Esau gave away something very precious, just for a bowl of stew.

When Isaac was very old, it was time to give a blessing to his oldest son. But Rebekah helped Jacob, the younger son,

to get the blessing. When Esau found out, he was very angry and he planned to kill his twin brother. Isaac and Rebekah wanted to protect Jacob, so they told him: ‘Go and stay with your mother’s brother, Laban, until Esau calms down.’ Jacob listened to his parents’ advice and ran for his life.

Questions: What kind of person was Esau? What kind of person was Jacob? Why did Jacob receive a blessing instead of Esau?

Genesis 25:20-34; 27:1–28:5; Hebrews 12:16, 17

“What good will it do a man to gain the whole world and to lose his life? What, really, would a man give in exchange for his life?”—Mark 8:36, 37

13 Jacob and Esau Make Peace

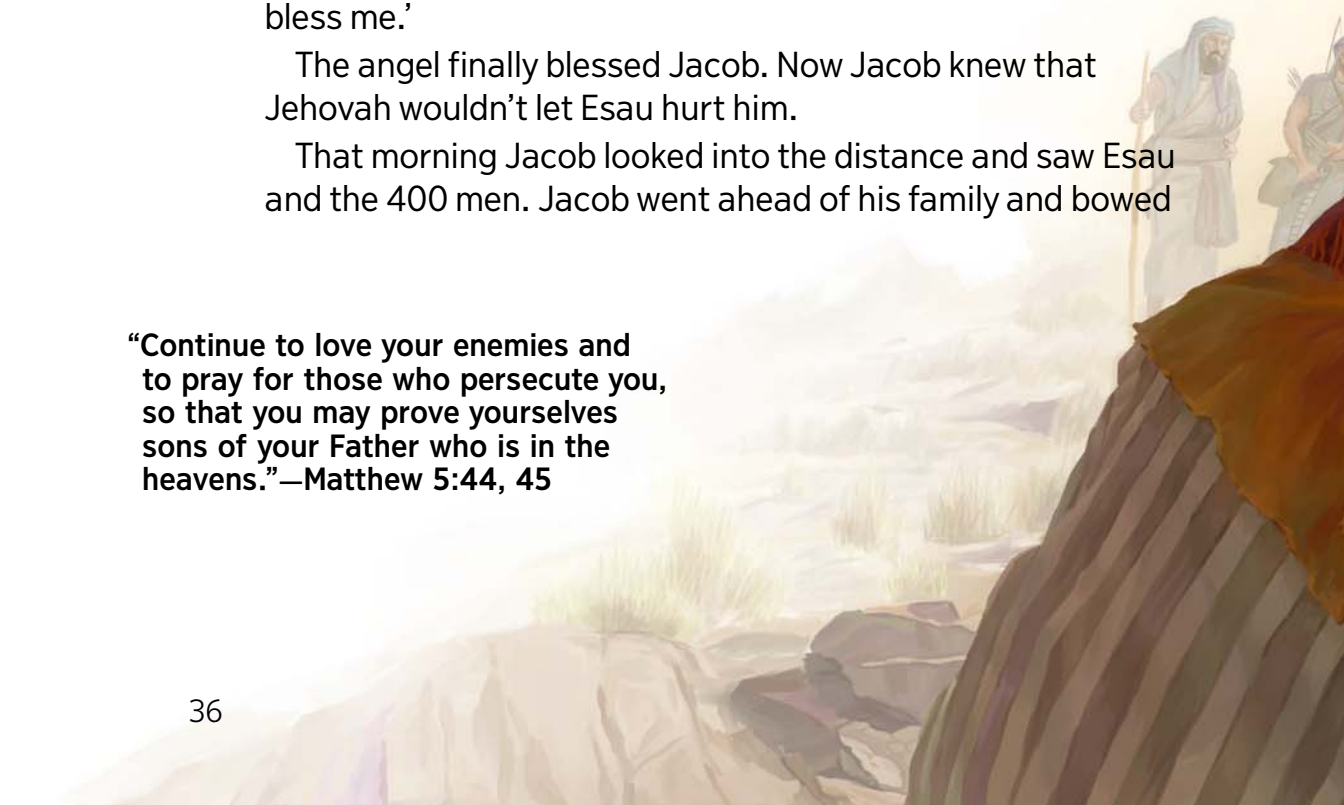
Jehovah promised Jacob that he would protect him just as he had protected Abraham and Isaac. Jacob settled in a place called Haran, where he got married, had a big family, and became very rich.

Eventually Jehovah told Jacob: ‘Go back to your homeland.’ So Jacob and his family began the long trip back. On the road some people came to Jacob and said: ‘Your brother Esau is coming, and there are 400 men with him!’ Jacob was afraid that Esau wanted to hurt him and his family. He prayed to Jehovah: ‘Please save me from my brother.’ The next day Jacob sent Esau a gift of many sheep, goats, cows, camels, and donkeys.

That night while Jacob was alone, he saw an angel! The angel started wrestling with him. They wrestled until the morning. Even though Jacob got hurt, he would not give up. The angel said: ‘Let me go.’ But Jacob said: ‘No, not until you bless me.’

The angel finally blessed Jacob. Now Jacob knew that Jehovah wouldn’t let Esau hurt him.

That morning Jacob looked into the distance and saw Esau and the 400 men. Jacob went ahead of his family and bowed



“Continue to love your enemies and to pray for those who persecute you, so that you may prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the heavens.”—Matthew 5:44, 45

down before his brother seven times. Esau ran to Jacob and threw his arms around him. The two brothers burst into tears and made peace. How do you think Jehovah felt about the way that Jacob handled this situation?

Later Esau went back to his home, and Jacob went to his. Jacob had a total of 12 sons. Their names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. One of those sons —Joseph—was used by Jehovah to save His people. Do you know how? Let's find out.

Questions: Why did Jacob receive a blessing? How did he make peace with his brother?

Genesis 28:13-15; 31:3, 17, 18; 32:1-29; 33:1-18; 35:23-26

4

This section introduces us to Joseph, Job, Moses, and the Israelites. All of them endured much at the hands of the Devil. Some of them experienced injustice, imprisonment, slavery, and even death. In various ways, though, Jehovah protected them. If you are a parent, help your child to understand how those servants of Jehovah suffered evil without losing faith.

Jehovah used the Ten Plagues to show that he is more powerful than all the gods of Egypt. Highlight how Jehovah protected his people in the past and how he does so today.

KEY LESSONS

- Joseph resisted immorality because he loved Jehovah
- Job did not allow intense suffering to drive him away from Jehovah
- No matter where he was, Moses never forgot that he was a servant of God

14 A Slave Who Obeyed God

Joseph was one of Jacob's younger sons. His older brothers saw that Joseph was their father's favorite son. How do you think they felt about that? They were jealous of Joseph and hated him. When Joseph had some unusual dreams, he told his brothers about them. They thought the dreams meant that they would one day bow down to him. Now they hated him even more!

One day Joseph's brothers were looking after sheep near the city of Shechem. Jacob sent Joseph to see how they were doing. From far away they saw Joseph coming and said to one another: 'Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him!' They grabbed him and threw him into a deep pit. But Judah, one of his brothers, said: 'Don't kill him! Let's sell him as a slave instead.' So they sold Joseph for 20 pieces of silver to Midianite merchants who were going to Egypt.

Then Joseph's brothers dipped his coat in the blood of a goat, sent the coat to their father, and said: 'Isn't this your son's coat?' So Jacob thought that a wild animal had killed Joseph. He was heartbroken. No one could comfort him.

In Egypt, Joseph was sold as a slave to an important official named Potiphar. But Jehovah was with Joseph. Potiphar saw that Joseph was good at his work and that he could be trusted. Soon Joseph was put in charge of everything Potiphar owned.

Potiphar's wife noticed that Joseph was handsome and

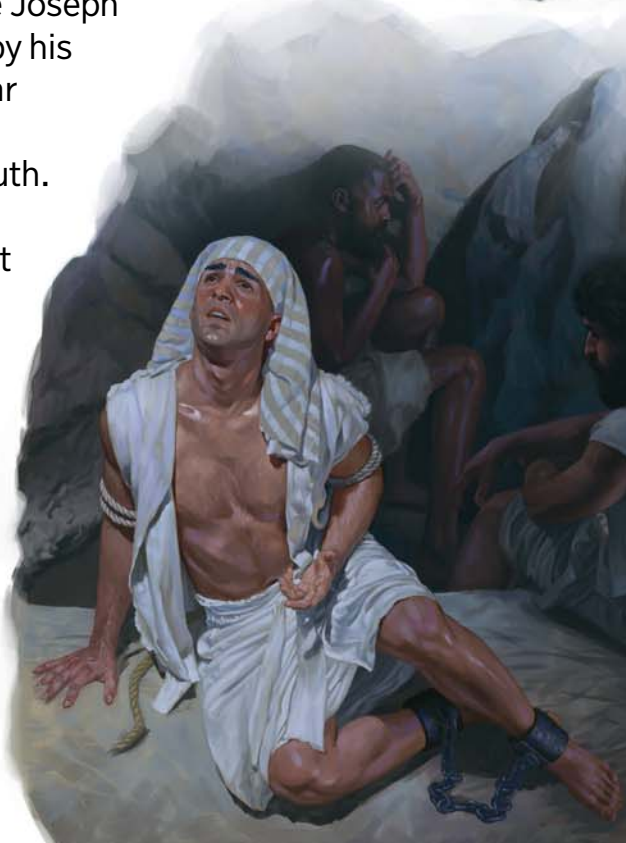
strong. Day after day she asked Joseph to lie down with her. What would Joseph do? He refused and said: ‘No! This is wrong. My master trusts me, and you are his wife. If I lie down with you, I will sin against God!’

One day Potiphar’s wife tried to force Joseph to lie down with her. She grabbed him by his clothes, but he ran away. When Potiphar came home, she said that Joseph had attacked her. She was not telling the truth. Potiphar was very angry, and he threw Joseph into prison. But Jehovah did not forget about Joseph.

Questions: How did Joseph’s brothers treat him? Why did Joseph end up in prison?

Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-23; Acts 7:9

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.”—1 Peter 5:6



15 Jehovah Never Forgot Joseph

While Joseph was in prison, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had dreams that no one could explain. One of his servants told Pharaoh that Joseph could tell him what his dreams meant. Pharaoh immediately sent for Joseph.

Pharaoh asked him: ‘Can you explain my dreams?’ Joseph told Pharaoh: ‘Egypt will have plenty of food for seven years, followed by seven years of famine. Choose someone wise to store up food so that your people will not starve.’ Pharaoh replied: ‘I choose you! You will be the second most powerful man in Egypt!’ How did Joseph know what Pharaoh’s dreams meant? Jehovah had helped Joseph.

Over the next seven years, Joseph stored up food. Then there was famine over all the earth, just as Joseph had said. People came from everywhere to buy food from Joseph. His father, Jacob, heard that there was food in Egypt, so he sent ten of his sons there to buy some.

Jacob’s sons went to Joseph, who immediately recognized them. But his brothers did not know that it was Joseph. They bowed down to him, just as he had dreamed when he was young. Joseph wanted to know if his brothers were still hateful. So he said to them: ‘You are spies. You want to find out where our country is weak.’ They said: ‘No! We are 12 brothers from

"If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
—Matthew 6:15

Canaan. One of our brothers is dead, and the youngest is with our father.' Joseph then said: 'Bring your youngest brother to me, and I will believe you.' So they went home to their father.

When the family ran out of food again, Jacob sent his sons back to Egypt. This time they took Benjamin, their youngest brother, with them. To test his brothers, Joseph hid his silver cup in Benjamin's bag of grain and then accused his brothers of stealing it. When Joseph's servants found the cup in Benjamin's bag, his brothers were shocked. They begged Joseph to punish them instead of Benjamin.

Now Joseph knew that his brothers had changed. Joseph could not hold back his feelings any longer. He burst into tears and said: 'I am your brother Joseph. Is my father still alive?' His brothers were very surprised. He told them: 'Don't feel bad because of what you did to me. God sent me here to save your lives. Now hurry and bring my father here.'

They went home to tell their father the good news and to bring him to Egypt. After so many years, Joseph and his father were finally together again.

Questions: How did Jehovah help Joseph?
How did Joseph show that he forgave his brothers?

Genesis 40:1–45:28; 46:1-7, 26-34; Psalm 105:17-19; Acts 7:9-15

16 Who Was Job?

In the land of Uz, there lived a man who worshipped Jehovah. His name was Job. He was a very rich man with a large family. He was kind, and he helped poor people, women whose husbands had died, and children who had no parents. But just because he did what was right, would Job himself never have any problems?

Job did not know it, but Satan the Devil was watching him. Jehovah said to Satan: 'Have you noticed my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth. He listens to me and does what is right.' Satan replied: 'Of course Job obeys you. You protect him and bless him. You give him land and animals. Take it all away, and he will stop worshipping you.' Jehovah said: 'You may test Job. But you are not allowed to kill him.' Why did Jehovah let Satan test Job? He was confident that Job would not fail.

Satan began to test Job with a number of disasters. First he sent people called the Sabeans to steal Job's cattle and donkeys. Then fire destroyed all of Job's sheep. Another group of people, the Chaldeans, stole his camels. The servants who were looking after those animals were killed. Next came the worst disaster. All of Job's children died when the house where they were feasting fell on them. Job was heartbroken, but he did not stop worshipping Jehovah.

Satan wanted Job to suffer even more, so he caused sores to break

out all over Job's body. Job was in terrible pain. He did not know why all these things were happening to him. Yet, Job still worshipped Jehovah. God saw all of this, and he was very pleased with Job.

"You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome Jehovah gave."—James 5:11

Satan then sent three men to test Job. They told him: 'You must have sinned and tried to hide it. God is punishing you.' Job said: 'I have not done anything wrong.' But then he started to think that Jehovah was causing these problems, and he said that God was not being fair to him.

A young man named Elihu had been quietly listening to the conversation. Then he spoke up and said: 'What all of you have said is wrong. Jehovah is greater than we can understand. He could never do anything wicked. He sees everything and helps people with their problems.'

Then Jehovah spoke to Job. He said: 'Where were you when I made the heaven and the earth? Why do you say that I am not fair? You speak, but you do not know why things happen.' Job admitted his mistake and said: 'I was wrong. I had heard about you, but now I really know you. Nothing is impossible for you. I am sorry for what I said.'

When the test was over, Jehovah made Job healthy again and gave him much more than he had before. Job lived a long and happy life. Jehovah blessed Job for listening to him even when it was hard. Will you be like Job and keep worshipping Jehovah, come what may?

Questions: How did Satan test Job? How did Jehovah reward Job?

Job 1:1–3:26; 4:7; 32:1-5; 34:5, 21; 35:2; 36:15, 26; 38:1-7; 40:8; 42:1-17

17 Moses Chose to Worship Jehovah

In Egypt, Jacob's family became known as Israelites. After Jacob and Joseph died, a new Pharaoh began to rule. He was afraid that the Israelites were becoming more powerful than the Egyptians. So this Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves. He forced them to make bricks and to work very hard in the fields. But the more the Egyptians forced them to work hard, the more the Israelites grew in number. Because Pharaoh did not like that, he commanded that all the newborn Israelite boys be killed. Can you imagine how scared the Israelites must have been?

An Israelite woman named Jochebed had a beautiful baby boy. To protect him, she put him in a basket and hid it in the reeds of the Nile River. The baby's sister, Miriam, stayed nearby to see what would happen.

Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the river and saw the basket. Inside she found a

crying baby, and she felt sorry for him. Miriam asked: ‘Should I go find a woman who can nurse the child for you?’ When Pharaoh’s daughter said yes, Miriam brought back her own mother, Jochebed. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her: ‘Take this baby, nurse him for me, and I will pay you.’

When the child grew older, Jochebed brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, who named him Moses and raised him as her own son. Moses grew up as a prince and could have anything he wanted. But Moses never forgot Jehovah. He knew that he was really an Israelite, not an Egyptian. And he chose to serve Jehovah.

At the age of 40, Moses decided to help his people. When he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave, Moses hit the Egyptian so hard that he died. Moses hid the body in the sand. When Pharaoh found out, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses ran away to the land of Midian. Jehovah took care of him there.

Questions: How were the Israelites treated in Egypt? Why did Moses run away from Egypt?

Genesis 49:33; Exodus 1:1-14, 22; 2:1-15; Acts 7:17-29; Hebrews 11:23-27

“By faith Moses . . . refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing to be mistreated with the people of God.”—Hebrews 11:24, 25

18 The Burning Bush

Moses lived in Midian for 40 years. He got married and had children. One day while he was taking care of his sheep near Mount Sinai, he saw something amazing. A thornbush was on fire, but it was not burning up! When Moses went near to see why, he heard a voice from inside the bush say: 'Moses! Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals because you are standing on holy ground.' It was Jehovah who was talking by means of an angel.

Moses was afraid, so he covered his face. The voice said: 'I have seen the suffering of the Israelites. I will save them from the Egyptians and bring them to a good land. You are the one who will lead my people out of Egypt.' Don't you think that must have surprised Moses?

"Do not become anxious about how or what you are to speak, for what you are to speak will be given you in that hour."—Matthew 10:19

Moses asked: 'What should I say when the people ask who sent me?' God replied: 'Tell them that Jehovah, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent you.' Moses then said: 'What if the people don't listen to me?' Jehovah gave Moses proof that He would help him. He told Moses to throw his stick on the ground. Then the stick became a snake! When Moses grabbed the snake by the tail, it became a stick again. Jehovah said: 'When you perform this sign, it will prove that I sent you.'

Moses said: 'I'm not a good speaker.' Jehovah promised him: 'I will tell you what to say, and I will send your brother Aaron to help you.' Knowing that Jehovah was with him, Moses took his wife and sons and headed back to Egypt.

Questions: What did Moses see while he was taking care of his sheep? What did Jehovah want Moses to do?

Exodus 3:1–4:20; Acts 7:30-36

19 The First Three Plagues

The Israelites were forced to work hard as slaves. Jehovah sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh with this message: ‘Let my people go so that they can worship me in the wilderness.’ Pharaoh proudly replied: ‘I do not care what Jehovah says, and I will not let the Israelites go.’ Then Pharaoh forced them to work even harder. Jehovah would teach Pharaoh a lesson. Do you know how? He brought the Ten Plagues on Egypt. Jehovah told Moses: ‘Pharaoh is not listening to me. In the morning, he will be at the Nile River. Go to him and tell him that because he has not let my people go, all the water in the Nile will turn into blood.’ Moses obeyed and went to Pharaoh. Pharaoh watched as Aaron hit the Nile with his stick, and the river turned into blood. The river began to stink, the fish died, and there was no fresh water to drink from the Nile. Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go.

"I will make them know my power and my might, and they will have to know that my name is Jehovah."
—Jeremiah 16:21

Seven days later, Jehovah sent Moses back to Pharaoh with this message: 'If you don't send my people away, Egypt will be filled with frogs.' Aaron raised his stick, and frogs began to cover the land. The people found frogs in their houses, in their beds, and in their bowls. There were frogs everywhere! Pharaoh had Moses beg Jehovah to end this plague. Pharaoh promised that he would let the Israelites go. So Jehovah stopped the plague, and the Egyptians piled up the dead frogs, heap after heap. The land began to stink. But, again, Pharaoh would not let the people go.

Then Jehovah told Moses: 'Aaron must hit the ground with his stick, and the dust will turn into gnats, or small biting flies.' Immediately there were gnats everywhere. Some of Pharaoh's own people told him: 'This plague comes from God.' But, still, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

Questions: What were the first three plagues?
Why did Jehovah cause these plagues?

Exodus 5:1-18; 7:8–8:19; Nehemiah 9:9, 10

20 The Next Six Plagues

Moses and Aaron went to tell Pharaoh God's message: 'If you don't let my people go, I will send gadflies to the land.' Swarms of gadflies invaded the houses of the Egyptians, both rich and poor. The whole land was full of gadflies. But in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, there were no gadflies. Starting with this fourth plague, the plagues hurt only the Egyptians. Pharaoh pleaded: 'Beg Jehovah to take these flies away. Your people can go.' But when Jehovah took the gadflies away, Pharaoh changed his mind. Would Pharaoh ever learn his lesson?

Jehovah said: 'If Pharaoh does not let my people go, the animals of the Egyptians will become sick and die.' The next day, the animals began to die. But the animals of the Israelites didn't die. Still Pharaoh was stubborn, and he wouldn't give in.

Then Jehovah told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and throw ashes into the air. The ashes became dust that filled the air and settled on all the Egyptians. The dust caused painful sores to break out on all of the Egyptians and their animals. Even so, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.

"You will again see the distinction between a righteous person and a wicked person, between one serving God and one not serving him." —Malachi 3:18

Jehovah sent Moses back to Pharaoh with His message: 'Are you still refusing to send my

people away? Tomorrow hail will rain down on the land.' The next day, Jehovah sent hail, thunder, and fire. It was the worst storm Egypt had ever seen. All the trees and crops were ruined, but not those in Goshen. Pharaoh said: 'Beg Jehovah to make this stop! Then you can go.' But as soon as the hail and the rain stopped, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Then Moses said: 'Now locusts will eat any plants that were left over from the hailstorm.' Millions of locusts ate up everything that was left in the fields and on the trees. Pharaoh pleaded: 'Beg Jehovah to send these locusts away.' But even after Jehovah stopped the locusts, Pharaoh was still stubborn.

Jehovah told Moses: 'Stretch out your hand toward the sky.' Immediately, the sky became completely dark. For three days, the Egyptians could not see anything or anybody. Only the Israelites had light in their houses.

Pharaoh said to Moses: 'You and your people can go. Just leave your animals here.' Moses said: 'We must take our animals so that we can offer them to our God.' Pharaoh was very angry. He shouted: 'Get away from me! If I see you again, I will kill you.'

Questions: What plagues did Jehovah cause next? How were they different from the first three plagues?

Exodus 8:20–10:29

21 The Tenth Plague

Moses promised Pharaoh that he would not try to see him again. But before he left, he told Pharaoh: ‘At midnight, every firstborn child in Egypt, from the son of Pharaoh to the sons of the slaves, will die.’

Jehovah told the Israelites to have a special meal. He said: ‘Kill a one-year-old male sheep or goat, and put some of its blood on your doorway. Roast the meat, and eat it along with unleavened bread. Be dressed, with your sandals on, ready to go. This night I will set you free.’ Can you imagine how excited the Israelites must have been?

At midnight, Jehovah’s angel went to every house in Egypt. In the houses that were not marked with blood on the doorway, the firstborn died. But the angel passed over the houses marked with blood. Every Egyptian family, rich and poor, lost a child. But not one of the Israelite children died.

Even Pharaoh’s own son was dead. Pharaoh could not take it anymore. He immediately told Moses and Aaron: ‘Get up. Get out of here. Go and worship your God. Take your animals and go!’

“For this very reason I have let you remain: to show my power in connection with you and to have my name declared in all the earth.”—Romans 9:17

Under a full moon, the Israelites marched out of Egypt, organized by family and tribe. There were 600,000 Israelite men and many women and children. Also, a lot of other people went with them so that they could worship Jehovah too. The Israelites were free at last!

To remember how Jehovah had saved them, they would have that same special meal each year. It was called the Passover.

Questions: What was the tenth plague?
What did the Israelites have to do to protect themselves from that plague?

Exodus 11:1–12:42; 13:3-10

22 The Miracle at the Red Sea

As soon as Pharaoh heard that the Israelites had left Egypt, he changed his mind about sending them away. He commanded his warriors: ‘Get all my war chariots ready, and let’s chase after them! We should not have let them go.’ He and his men began chasing the Israelites.

Jehovah was leading his people, using a cloud during the day and fire at night. He led them to the Red Sea, and he told them to set up camp.

Then the Israelites saw Pharaoh and his army chasing after them. They were trapped between the sea and the Egyptian army. They cried out to Moses: ‘We are going to die! You should have left us in Egypt.’ But Moses said: ‘Don’t be afraid. Wait and see how Jehovah will save us.’ Moses really trusted in Jehovah, didn’t he?

Jehovah told the Israelites to break camp. That night, Jehovah moved the cloud and placed it between the Egyptians and the Israelites. On the Egyptian side, there was darkness. But on the Israelite side, there was light.

Jehovah told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea.

Then Jehovah made a strong wind blow all night long. The sea was split in two, and there was a pathway down the middle. The millions of Israelites marched on dry ground, between the walls of water, to the other side.

Pharaoh's army followed the Israelites into the dry seabed. Then Jehovah threw the army into confusion. The wheels began to fall off their chariots. The soldiers shouted: 'Let's get out of here! Jehovah is fighting for them.'

Jehovah told Moses: 'Stretch out your hand over the sea.' At once, the walls of water collapsed on the Egyptian army. Pharaoh and all his men died. Not one of them survived.

On the other side of the sea, the large crowd of people praised God with a song: "Sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea." While the people sang, the women danced and played tambourines. Everyone was very happy that now they were truly free.

Questions: What happened at the Red Sea? How did Jehovah save the Israelites?

Exodus 13:21–15:21; Nehemiah 9:9-11; Psalm 106:9-12; 136:11-15; Hebrews 11:29

"So that we may be of good courage and say: 'Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'"—Hebrews 13:6

5

Two months after passing through the Red Sea, the Israelites came to Mount Sinai. There, Jehovah made a covenant with Israel to be his special nation. He protected them and provided everything they needed—manna to eat, clothing that did not wear out, and a safe place to live. If you are a parent, help your child to understand why Jehovah gave the Israelites the Law, the tabernacle, and the priesthood. Emphasize the importance of keeping our word, remaining humble, and always being loyal to Jehovah.

KEY LESSONS

- When you make a promise to Jehovah, be sure to keep it
- Pride, selfishness, and rebellion lead to disaster
- Jehovah was patient with the Israelites and took care of them even when they were unfaithful

23 A Promise to Jehovah

About two months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai and set up camp. Jehovah called to Moses, who went up on the mountain, and told him: ‘I saved the Israelites. If they obey me and keep my laws, they will become my special people.’ Moses went back down and told the Israelites what Jehovah had said. How did they respond? They answered: ‘We will do everything Jehovah tells us to do.’

Moses went up the mountain again. There, Jehovah said: ‘In three days, I will speak to you. Warn the people not to try to come up to Mount Sinai.’ Moses went down and told the Israelites to get ready to hear from Jehovah.

Three days later, the Israelites saw lightning and a dark cloud on the mountain. They also heard loud thunder and the sound of a horn. Then Jehovah came down on the mountain in fire. The Israelites were so afraid that they trembled. The whole mountain shook violently and was covered in smoke. The sound of the horn got louder and louder. And then God said: ‘I am Jehovah. You must not worship any other gods.’

“You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.”—Matthew 22:37

Moses went back up on the mountain, and Jehovah gave him laws for the people about how they should worship Him and how they should behave. Moses wrote down the laws and then read them to the Israelites. They promised: ‘We will do everything Jehovah tells us to do.’ Yes, they made a promise to God. But would they keep it?

Questions: What happened at Mount Sinai? What did the Israelites promise to do?

Exodus 19:1–20:21; 24:1-8; Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Nehemiah 9:13, 14

24 They Broke Their Promise

Jehovah said to Moses: ‘Come up to me on the mountain. I will write my laws on stone tablets and give them to you.’ Moses climbed the mountain and stayed there for 40 days and nights. While he was there, Jehovah wrote the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets and gave the tablets to Moses.

After some time, the Israelites thought that Moses had left them. They said to Aaron: ‘We want someone to lead us. Make a god for us!’ Aaron said: ‘Give me your gold.’ He melted the gold and made a statue of a calf. The people said: ‘This calf is our God who led us out of Egypt!’ They began to worship the golden calf, and they had a celebration. Was that wrong? Yes, because the people had promised to worship only Jehovah. But now they were breaking that promise.

Jehovah saw what was happening, and he told Moses: ‘Go down to the people. They are

“Whenever you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it, for he finds no pleasure in the stupid ones. What you vow, pay.”—Ecclesiastes 5:4

disobeying me and worshipping a false god.' Moses went down the mountain, carrying the two tablets.

As he came close to the camp, Moses heard the people singing. Then he saw them dancing and bowing down to the calf. Moses was very angry. He threw the two tablets to the ground, and they broke into pieces. He immediately destroyed the statue. Then he asked Aaron: 'How did the people convince you to do this terrible thing?' Aaron said: 'Don't be angry. You know how these people are. They wanted a god, so I threw their gold into the fire and this calf came out!' Aaron should not have done that. Moses went back up the mountain and pleaded with Jehovah to forgive the people.

Jehovah forgave those who were willing to obey him. Can you see how important it was for the Israelites to follow Moses' leadership?

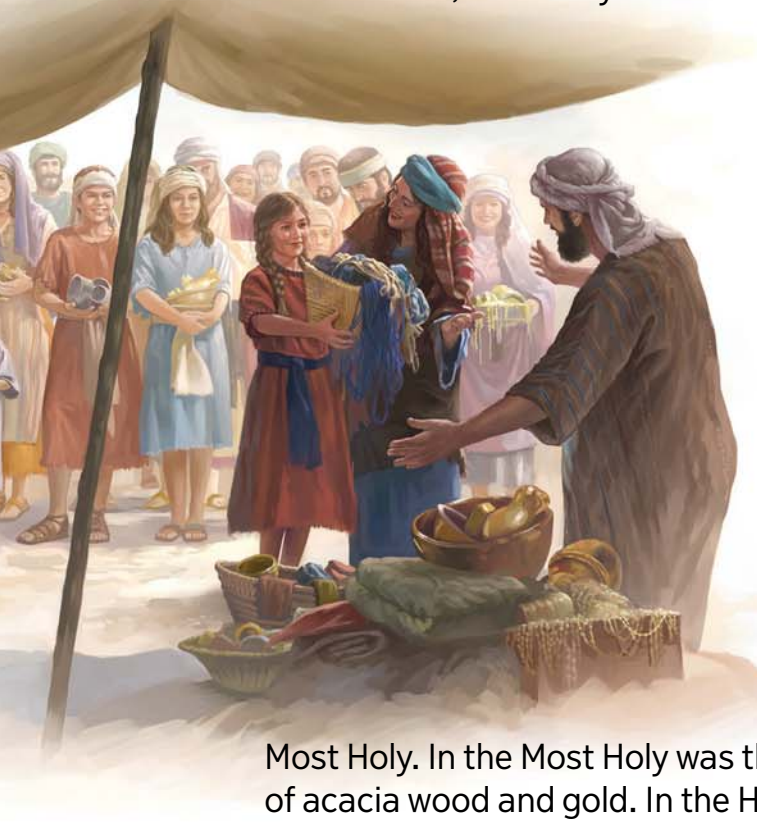
Questions: What did the Israelites do while Moses was away? What did Moses do when he came back?

Exodus 24:12-18; 32:1-30

25 A Tabernacle for Worship

When Moses was on Mount Sinai, Jehovah told him to build a special tent, called a tabernacle, where the Israelites could worship Him. They would be able to carry the tabernacle with them as they moved around.

Jehovah said: ‘Tell the people to give what they can to help build the tabernacle.’ The Israelites gave gold, silver, copper, precious stones, and jewelry. They also gave wool, linen, animal skins, and many other things. They were so generous that Moses had to tell them: ‘We have enough! Do not bring any more.’



Many skilled men and women helped to build the tabernacle. Jehovah made them wise for the work. Some spun thread, wove fabric, or embroidered it. Others set stones, worked with gold, or carved wood.

The people built the tabernacle just as Jehovah had told them. They made a beautiful curtain to separate the tabernacle into two sections, the Holy and the Most Holy. In the Most Holy was the ark of the covenant, made of acacia wood and gold. In the Holy was a golden lampstand, a table, and an altar for burning incense. In the courtyard was a copper basin and a large altar. The ark of the covenant reminded the Israelites of their promise to obey Jehovah. Do

"With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: 'Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them.'"—Revelation 21:3

you know what a covenant is? It's a special kind of promise.

Jehovah chose Aaron and his sons to work at the tabernacle as priests. They had to take care of it and make offerings there to Jehovah. Only Aaron, the high priest, was allowed to enter the Most Holy. He did this once a year to present a sacrifice for his sins, the sins of his family, and the sins of the whole nation of Israel.

The Israelites finished the tabernacle one year after they left Egypt. Now they had a place to worship Jehovah.

Jehovah filled the tabernacle with his glory and had a cloud appear above it. As long as the cloud was above the tabernacle, the Israelites remained where they were. But when the cloud lifted, they knew that it was time to move. They would take the tabernacle apart and follow the cloud.

Questions: What did Jehovah tell Moses to build? What responsibilities did Jehovah give Aaron and his sons?

Exodus 25:1-9; 31:1-11; 40:33-38; Hebrews 9:1-7

26 The Twelve Spies

The Israelites left Mount Sinai and traveled through the desert of Paran to a place called Kadesh. There Jehovah told Moses: ‘Send 12 men, one from each tribe, to spy out Canaan, the land that I will give to the Israelites.’ So Moses chose 12 men and said to them: ‘Go to Canaan, and find out if the land is

good for growing food. See whether the people are weak or strong and whether they live in tents or in cities.’ The 12 spies, including Joshua and Caleb, left for Canaan.

After 40 days, the spies returned, bringing back figs, pomegranates, and grapes. The spies reported: ‘It is a good land, but the people are strong and the cities have high walls.’ Then Caleb said: ‘We can conquer them. Let’s go right away!’ Do you know why Caleb said that? Because he and Joshua trusted in Jehovah. But the other ten spies said: ‘No! The people there are huge, like giants! We seemed like grasshoppers next to them.’

The Israelites were discouraged. They began to complain and say to one another: ‘Let’s choose a different leader and go back to Egypt. Why should we go to this place and be killed?’

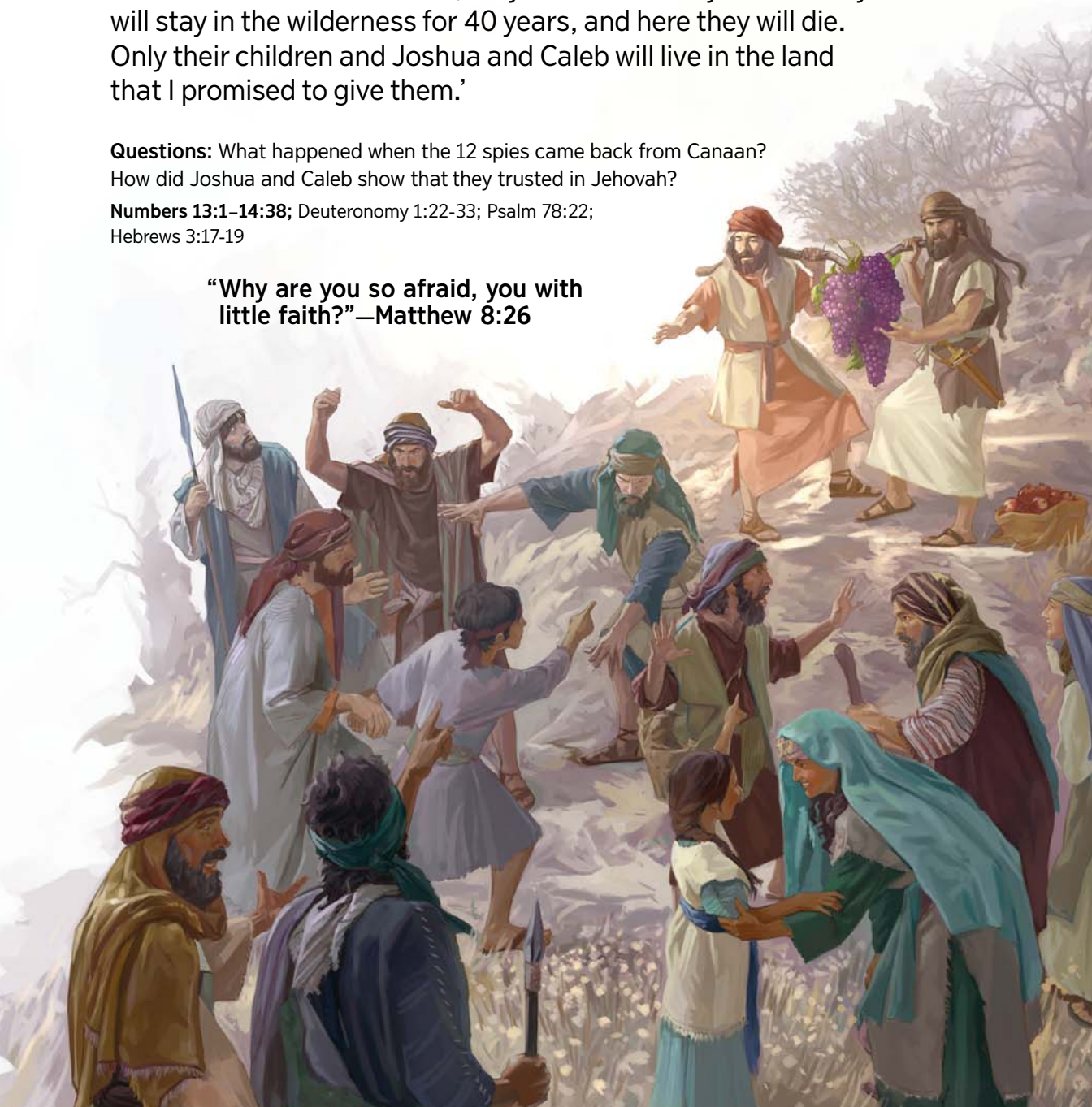
Joshua and Caleb said: ‘Do not disobey Jehovah, and do not be afraid. Jehovah will protect us.’ But the Israelites would not listen. They even wanted to kill Joshua and Caleb!

What did Jehovah do? He said to Moses: ‘After everything I have done for the Israelites, they still do not obey me. So they will stay in the wilderness for 40 years, and here they will die. Only their children and Joshua and Caleb will live in the land that I promised to give them.’

Questions: What happened when the 12 spies came back from Canaan? How did Joshua and Caleb show that they trusted in Jehovah?

Numbers 13:1–14:38; Deuteronomy 1:22-33; Psalm 78:22; Hebrews 3:17-19

“Why are you so afraid, you with little faith?”—Matthew 8:26



27 They Rebelled Against Jehovah

Some time later, while the Israelites were in the wilderness, Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 others rebelled against Moses. They said to him: ‘We have had enough of you! Why should you be our leader and Aaron be the high priest? Jehovah is with all of us, not just you and Aaron.’ Jehovah was not pleased. He viewed it as a rebellion against him!

Moses told Korah and his supporters: ‘Come to the tabernacle tomorrow, and bring your fire holders filled with incense. Jehovah will show us whom he has chosen.’

The next day, Korah and the 250 men went to meet Moses at the tabernacle. There they burned incense as if they were priests. Jehovah told Moses and Aaron: ‘Separate yourselves from Korah and his men.’

Although Korah had gone to Moses at the tabernacle, Dathan, Abiram, and their families had refused to go. Jehovah told the Israelites to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Immediately, the Israelites moved away. Dathan,

Abiram, and their families stood outside their tents. Suddenly the ground split apart and swallowed them up! At the tabernacle, a fire came down and burned up Korah and his 250 men.

Jehovah then told Moses: ‘Take a staff from the leader of each tribe, and write his name on it. But on the staff of the tribe of Levi, write Aaron’s name. Put them inside the tabernacle, and the staff of the man whom I choose will grow flowers.’

“Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive.” —Hebrews 13:17

The next day, Moses brought out all the staffs and showed them to the leaders. Aaron’s staff had flowers growing, and there were ripe almonds on it. In this way, Jehovah confirmed that he had chosen Aaron to be the high priest.

Questions: Why did Korah and his supporters rebel against Moses? How do we know that Jehovah chose Aaron to be the high priest?

Numbers 16:1–17:13; 26:9-11; Psalm 106:16-18

28 Balaam's Donkey Speaks

The Israelites had been in the wilderness for almost 40 years. They had conquered many strong cities. Now, as they camped on the plains of Moab east of the Jordan River, it was time for them to enter the Promised Land. Balak, the king of Moab, was scared that he was going to lose his land to them. So he invited a man named Balaam to come to Moab and curse the Israelites.

But Jehovah told Balaam: 'You must not curse the Israelites.' So Balaam refused to go. King Balak invited him a second time and promised to give him anything he wanted. Still, Balaam refused. Then God said: 'You may go, but you may say only what I tell you to say.'

"Guard against every sort of greed, because even when a person has an abundance, his life does not result from the things he possesses." —Luke 12:15

Balaam got on his donkey and headed south to Moab. He planned to curse the Israelites, even though Jehovah had told him not to. Jehovah's angel appeared on the road three times. Balaam could not see the angel, but Balaam's donkey could. First the donkey went off the road into a field. Then the donkey moved up against a stone wall, jamming Balaam's foot against it. Finally the donkey lay down in the middle of the road. Each time, Balaam hit the donkey with a stick.

After the third time, Jehovah made the donkey speak. The donkey asked Balaam: 'Why do you keep hitting me?' Balaam said: 'You made me look stupid. I would kill you if I had a sword.' The donkey said: 'You've ridden me for years. Have I ever treated you this way before?'

Then Jehovah let Balaam see the angel. The angel said: 'Jehovah warned you not to curse Israel.' Balaam said: 'I did

wrong. I will go back home.' But the angel said: 'You can go to Moab, but you may say only what Jehovah tells you to say.'

Had Balaam learned his lesson? No. After that, Balaam tried to curse Israel three times, but each time Jehovah made him bless them instead. Eventually, the Israelites attacked Moab, and Balaam was killed. Would it not have been better if Balaam had listened to Jehovah in the first place?

Questions: Why did Balaam go to Moab? What happened on his way there?

Numbers 22:1–24:25; 31:8; Nehemiah 13:2; 2 Peter 2:15, 16; Jude 11

6

When the Israelites finally reached the Promised Land, the tabernacle became the center of true worship there. Priests taught the Law, and judges guided the nation. This section illustrates the profound impact that a person's decisions and actions can have on others. Each Israelite had a personal responsibility toward Jehovah and his fellow man. Highlight the influence that Deborah, Naomi, Joshua, Hannah, Jephthah's daughter, and Samuel had on their communities. Emphasize that even some non-Israelites, such as Rahab, Ruth, Jael, and the Gibeonites, decided to side with the Israelites because they knew that God was with them.

KEY LESSONS

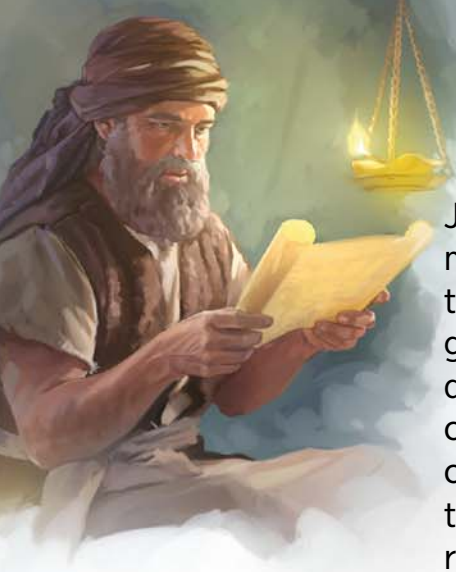
- Jehovah used the judges to save his people miraculously
- Faithful ones, young and old, were rewarded for their complete confidence in Jehovah
- God is not partial; he accepts people from every nation and background who love him and do what is right

29 Jehovah Chose Joshua

After leading the nation of Israel for many years, Moses was near the end of his life. Jehovah told him: ‘You are not the one who will bring the Israelites into the Promised Land. But I will let you see the land.’ Moses then asked Jehovah to choose a new leader to take care of the people. Jehovah said to him: ‘Go to Joshua, and tell him that he is the one.’

Moses told the nation that he would die soon and that Jehovah had chosen Joshua as the one to lead them into the Promised Land. Moses then said to Joshua: ‘Do not be afraid. Jehovah will help you.’ Soon after that, Moses went to the top of Mount Nebo, where Jehovah showed him the land that He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses was 120 years old when he died.

Jehovah told Joshua: ‘Cross the Jordan River, and go into Canaan. I will help you just as I helped Moses. Make sure that you read my Law every day. Do not be afraid. Be brave. Go and do what I have commanded you to do.’



Joshua sent two spies to the city of Jericho. In the next story, we will learn more about what happened there. When they returned, they reported that it was a good time to go into Canaan. The next day, Joshua told the nation to pack up the camp. Then he sent the priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant on ahead to the Jordan River. The river was flooding. But as soon as the feet of the priests touched the water, the river stopped flowing and the water drained away! The priests walked to the middle of the riverbed and stood there while the whole nation of Israel crossed to the other side. Do you think that this miracle reminded them of what Jehovah had done at the Red Sea?

"Jehovah will always lead you and satisfy you even in a parched land."—Isaiah 58:11

Finally, after all those years, the Israelites were in the Promised Land. They could build houses and cities. They could plant fields, vineyards, and orchards. It was a land flowing with milk and honey.

Questions: Who led the Israelites after Moses died? What happened at the Jordan River?

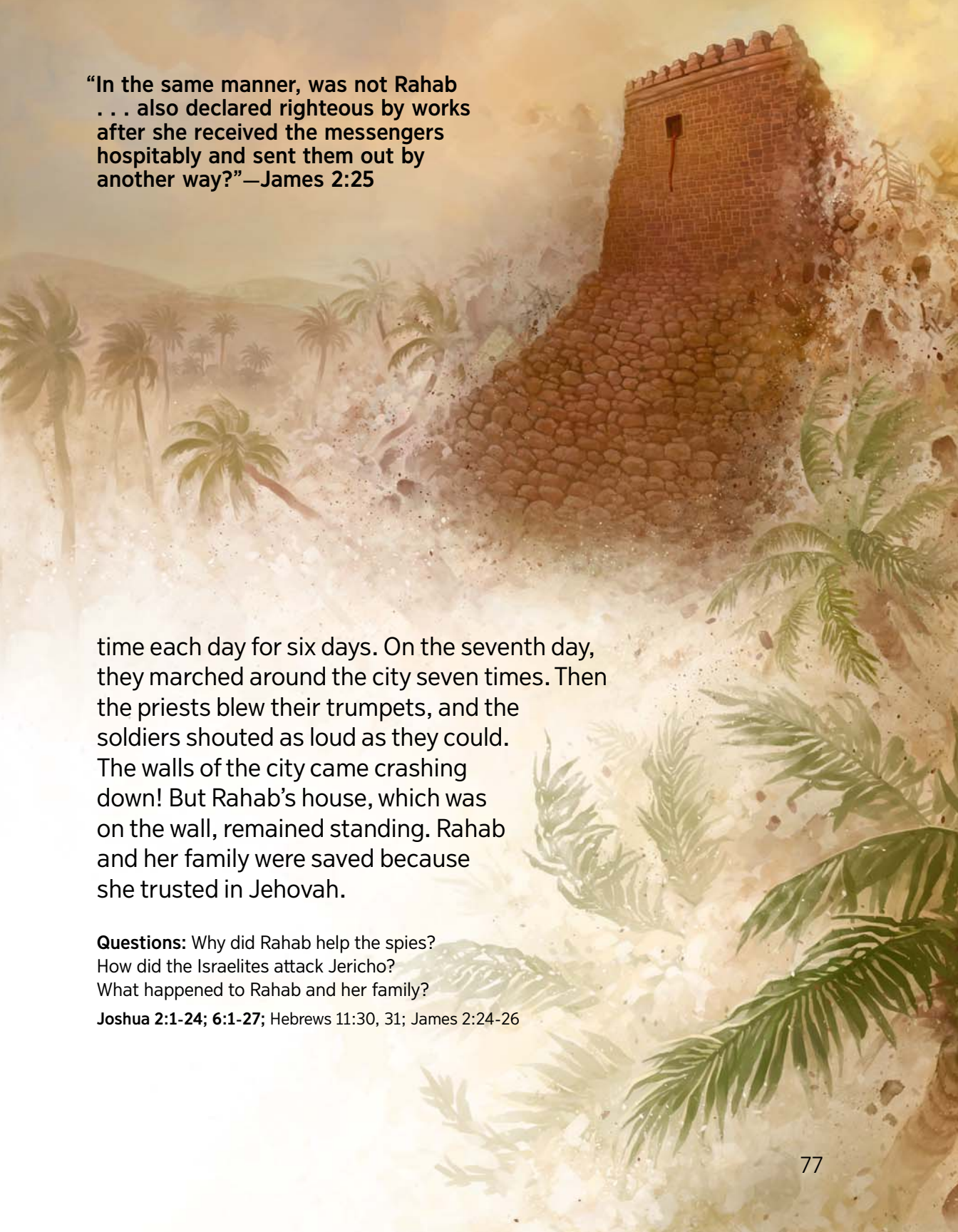
Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 34:1-12; Joshua 1:1–3:17

30 Rahab Hid the Spies

When the Israelite spies went to the city of Jericho, they stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab. The king of Jericho found out and sent soldiers to Rahab's house. She hid the two spies on the roof and sent the soldiers in another direction. She said to the spies: 'I will help you because I know that Jehovah is on your side and that you will conquer the land. Please promise me that you will save my family.'

The spies told Rahab: 'We promise that no one inside your house will be hurt.' They said: 'Tie a red cord in your window, and your family will be spared.'

Rahab let the spies down by a rope from her window. They went to the mountains and hid for three days before going back to Joshua. Then the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and prepared to take the land. Jericho was the first city they conquered. Jehovah told them to march around the city one



"In the same manner, was not Rahab . . . also declared righteous by works after she received the messengers hospitably and sent them out by another way?"—James 2:25

time each day for six days. On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times. Then the priests blew their trumpets, and the soldiers shouted as loud as they could. The walls of the city came crashing down! But Rahab's house, which was on the wall, remained standing. Rahab and her family were saved because she trusted in Jehovah.

Questions: Why did Rahab help the spies? How did the Israelites attack Jericho? What happened to Rahab and her family?

Joshua 2:1-24; 6:1-27; Hebrews 11:30, 31; James 2:24-26

31 Joshua and the Gibeonites

News about Jericho spread to other nations in Canaan. Their kings decided to come together to fight the Israelites. But the Gibeonites came up with a different plan. Wearing worn-out clothing, they went to Joshua and said: ‘We come from a distant land. We have heard about Jehovah and all he did for you in Egypt and Moab. Promise not to attack us, and we will become your servants.’

Joshua believed them and agreed not to attack them. Three days later, he found out that they were not from a distant land. They were from the land of Canaan. Joshua asked the Gibeonites: ‘Why did you lie to us?’ They answered: ‘We were afraid! We know that Jehovah your God is fighting for you. Please do not kill us.’ Joshua kept his promise and let them live.

Before long, five Canaanite kings and their armies threatened the Gibeonites. Joshua and his army marched all

“Let your word ‘Yes’ mean yes, your ‘No,’ no, for what goes beyond these is from the wicked one.”—Matthew 5:37

night long to rescue them. The fighting started early the next morning. The Canaanites began fleeing in all directions. Everywhere they ran Jehovah hurled huge hailstones down on them. Then Joshua asked Jehovah to make the sun stand still. Why would he ask Jehovah to do that when the sun had never stood still before? Because Joshua trusted in Jehovah. The sun did not set for a whole day until the Israelites had conquered the Canaanite kings and their armies.

Questions: What did the Gibeonites do to protect themselves? How did Jehovah help the Israelites?

Joshua 9:1–10:15

32 A New Leader and Two Brave Women

After leading Jehovah's people for many years, Joshua died at the age of 110. As long as he was alive, the Israelites worshipped Jehovah. But after Joshua died, they began to worship idols, as the Canaanites did. Because the Israelites did not keep following him, Jehovah allowed a Canaanite king named Jabin to make life hard for them. The people begged Jehovah for help. So Jehovah gave them a new leader, Barak. He would help the people return to Jehovah.

Deborah, a prophetess, sent for Barak. She had a message for him from Jehovah: 'Take 10,000 men, and go meet Jabin's army at the stream of Kishon. There you will defeat Sisera, the chief of Jabin's army.' Barak told Deborah: 'I will go but only if you come with me.' She said: 'I will go with you. But know that you are not the one who will kill Sisera. Jehovah has said that a woman will kill him.'

Deborah went with Barak and his army up to Mount Tabor to prepare for battle. As soon as Sisera heard about this, he

gathered his war chariots and troops in the valley below. Deborah said to Barak: ‘Today is the day that Jehovah will give you victory.’ Barak and his 10,000 men charged down the mountain to meet Sisera’s powerful army.

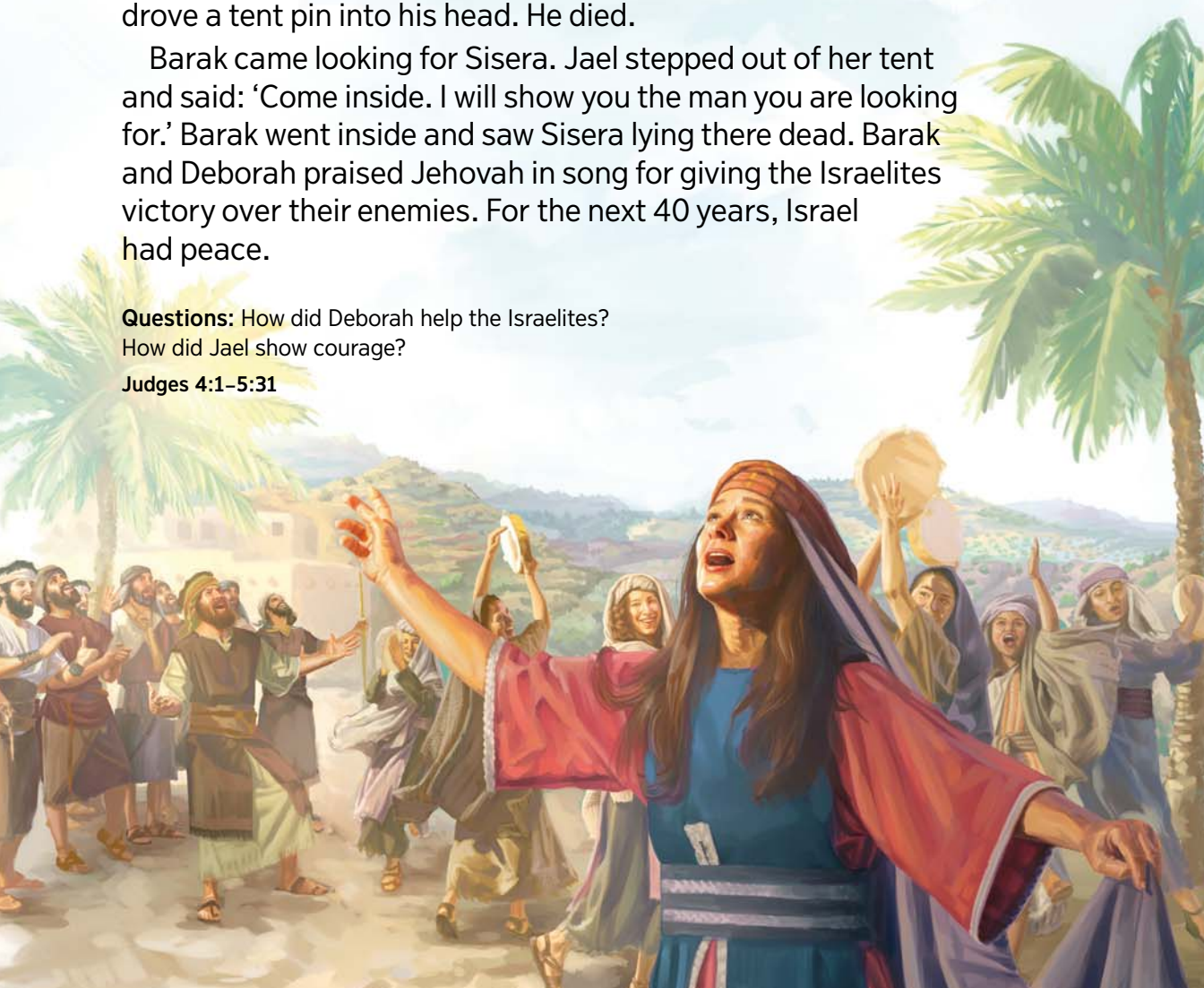
Jehovah then caused the stream of Kishon to flood. Sisera’s war chariots got stuck in the mud. Sisera left his chariot and began running. Barak and his soldiers defeated Sisera’s army, but Sisera escaped! He ran away and hid in the tent of a woman named Jael. She gave him milk to drink and then covered him with a blanket. The tired warrior fell asleep. Then Jael quietly crept toward him and drove a tent pin into his head. He died.

“The women proclaiming the good news are a large army.” —Psalm 68:11

Barak came looking for Sisera. Jael stepped out of her tent and said: ‘Come inside. I will show you the man you are looking for.’ Barak went inside and saw Sisera lying there dead. Barak and Deborah praised Jehovah in song for giving the Israelites victory over their enemies. For the next 40 years, Israel had peace.

Questions: How did Deborah help the Israelites? How did Jael show courage?

Judges 4:1–5:31



33 Ruth and Naomi

During a time of famine in Israel, an Israelite named Naomi moved to the land of Moab with her husband and their two sons. Later Naomi's husband died. Her sons married Ruth and Orpah, who were Moabites. Sadly, in time, Naomi's sons died.

When Naomi heard that the famine in Israel was over, she decided to return home. Ruth and Orpah traveled with her, but while on the road, Naomi told them: 'You were good wives to my sons and good daughters-in-law to me. I want you both to marry again. Go home to Moab.' The women said: 'We love you! We don't want to leave you.' Naomi kept telling them to go. Finally, Orpah went back, but Ruth stayed. Naomi told her: 'Orpah is going back to your people and your gods. Go with her.' But Ruth said: 'I will not leave you. Your people will be my

people, and your God will be my God.' How do you think Naomi felt when Ruth said that?

Ruth and Naomi arrived in Israel at the beginning of the barley harvest. One day, Ruth went to collect leftover grain in the field of a man named Boaz, who was the son of Rahab. He heard that Ruth was a Moabitess who had loyally stayed with Naomi. He told his workers to leave a little extra grain in the field for Ruth to gather.

That evening, Naomi asked Ruth: ‘Whose field did you work in today?’ Ruth said: ‘The field of a man named Boaz.’ Naomi told her: ‘Boaz is one of my husband’s relatives. Keep working in his field with the other young women. You will be safe there.’

“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” —Proverbs 18:24

Ruth continued to work in Boaz’ field until the harvest was over. Boaz noticed that Ruth worked hard and was an excellent woman. In those days, if a man died and had no sons, his relative would marry his widow. So Boaz married Ruth. They had a son named Obed, who later became King David’s grandfather. Naomi’s friends were delighted. They said: ‘First, Jehovah gave you Ruth, who has been very good to you, and now you have a grandson. May Jehovah be praised.’

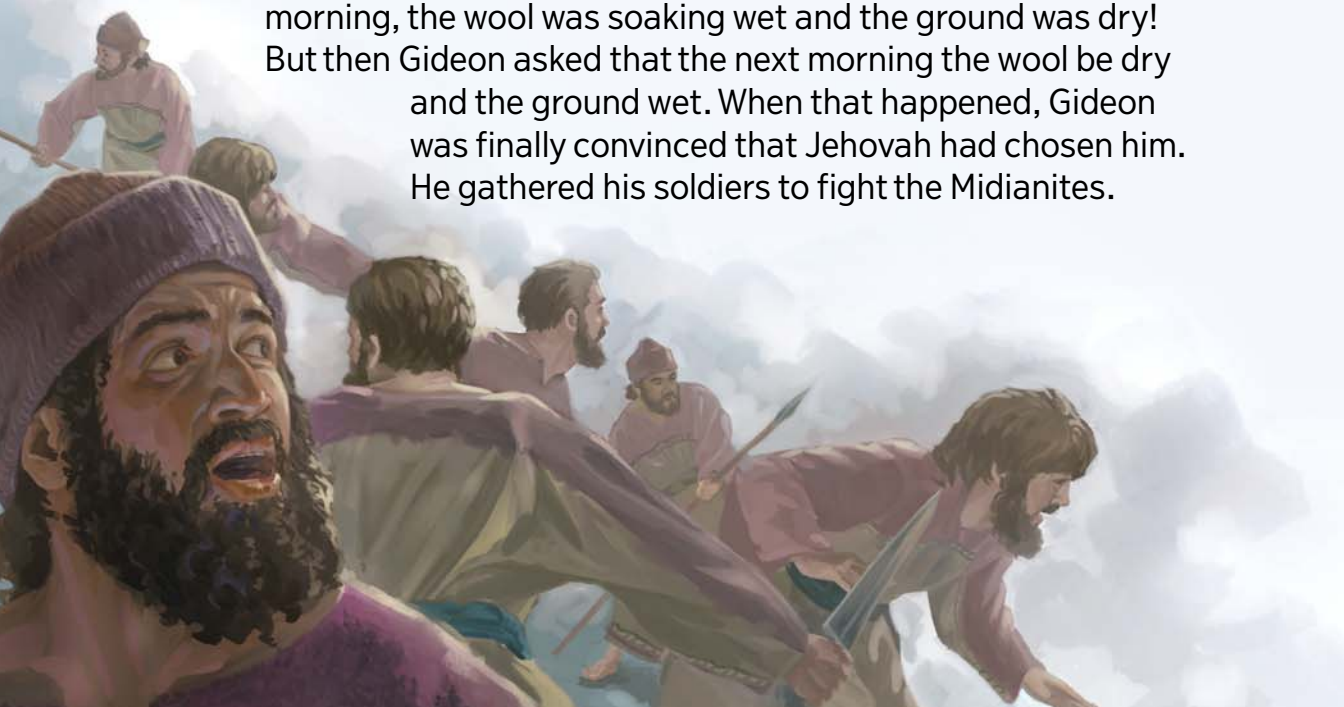
Questions: How did Ruth show her love for Naomi? How did Jehovah care for Ruth and Naomi?

Ruth 1:1–4:22; Matthew 1:5

34 Gideon Conquered the Midianites

In time, Israel again turned away from Jehovah and began to worship false gods. For seven years, the Midianites stole the Israelites' animals and destroyed their crops. To escape from the Midianites, the Israelites hid in caves and in the mountains. They begged Jehovah to save them. So Jehovah sent an angel to a young man named Gideon. The angel said: 'Jehovah has chosen you to be a mighty warrior.' Gideon asked: 'How can I save Israel? I am nothing.'

How would Gideon know that Jehovah had chosen him? He put a piece of wool on the ground and said to Jehovah: 'In the morning, if the wool is wet from the dew but the ground is dry, I will know that you want me to save Israel.' The next morning, the wool was soaking wet and the ground was dry! But then Gideon asked that the next morning the wool be dry and the ground wet. When that happened, Gideon was finally convinced that Jehovah had chosen him. He gathered his soldiers to fight the Midianites.



Jehovah told Gideon: ‘I will give the Israelites victory. But because you have so many soldiers, you might think that you won the battle by yourselves. Tell anyone who is afraid that he should go home.’ So 22,000 soldiers went home, and 10,000 remained. Jehovah then said: ‘There are still too many soldiers. Bring them to the stream, and tell them to drink the water. Keep with you only those who watch out for the enemy while they drink.’ Only 300 of the men stayed alert while they drank. Jehovah promised that these few men would conquer the 135,000 Midianite soldiers.

“So that the power beyond what is normal may be God’s and not from us.” —2 Corinthians 4:7

During that night, Jehovah told Gideon: ‘Now is the time to attack the Midianites!’ Gideon gave his men horns and large jars with torches hidden inside. He told them: ‘Watch me, and do exactly what I do.’ Gideon blew his horn, smashed his jar, waved his torch, and shouted: ‘The sword of Jehovah and of Gideon!’ All of his 300 men did the same. The Midianites were terrified and ran wildly in all directions. In the chaos, they began to attack one another. Once again, Jehovah helped the Israelites conquer their enemies.

Questions: How did Jehovah prove to Gideon that He had chosen him? Why did Gideon’s army have only 300 men?

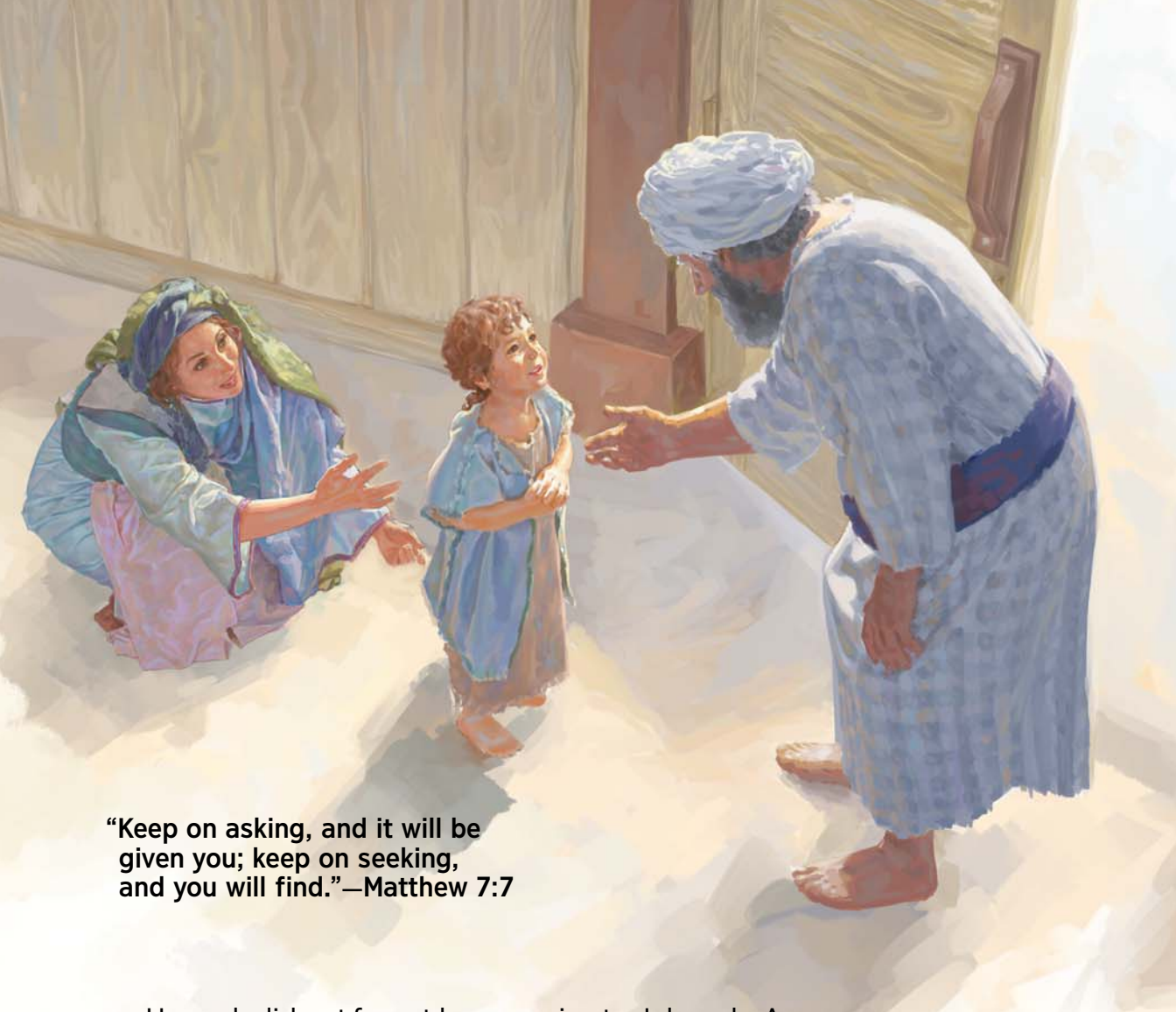
Judges 6:1–16; 6:36–7:25; 8:28

35 Hannah Prays for a Son

An Israelite named Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah, but he loved Hannah more. Peninnah mocked Hannah all the time because Hannah had no children and Peninnah had many children. Each year, Elkanah took his family to worship at the tabernacle in Shiloh. One time when they were there, he noticed that his beloved Hannah was very sad. He said: ‘Please don’t cry, Hannah. You have me. I love you.’

Later, Hannah went off on her own to pray. She could not stop crying as she begged Jehovah to help her. She promised: ‘Jehovah, if you give me a son, I will give him to you, and he will serve you all his life.’

High Priest Eli saw Hannah sobbing, and he thought that she was drunk. Hannah answered: ‘No, my lord, I am not drunk. I have a serious problem, and I am talking with Jehovah about it.’ Eli realized that he was wrong and told her: ‘May God give you what you want.’ Hannah felt better and went on her way. In less than a year, she had a son and named him Samuel. Can you imagine how happy Hannah must have been?



“Keep on asking, and it will be given you; keep on seeking, and you will find.”—Matthew 7:7

Hannah did not forget her promise to Jehovah. As soon as she stopped nursing Samuel, she brought him to serve at the tabernacle. She told Eli: ‘This is the boy I prayed for. For all his days, I lend him to Jehovah.’ Elkanah and Hannah visited Samuel each year and brought him a new sleeveless coat. Jehovah gave Hannah three more sons and two daughters.

Questions: Why was Hannah distressed? How did Jehovah bless Hannah?

1 Samuel 1:1–2:11, 18-21

36 Jephthah's Promise

The Israelites again abandoned Jehovah and began to worship false gods. When the Ammonites attacked and fought the Israelites, those false gods did nothing to help them. For many years, the Israelites suffered. Finally they said to Jehovah: 'We have sinned. Please save us from our enemies.' The Israelites destroyed their idols and began to worship Jehovah again. Jehovah did not want to see them continue to suffer.

A warrior named Jephthah was chosen to lead the people in battle against the Ammonites. He said to Jehovah: 'If you help us win this battle, I promise that when I return home, I will give you the first person who comes out of my house to meet me.'

"Whoever has greater affection for son or daughter than for me is not worthy of me." —Matthew 10:37

Jehovah listened to Jephthah's prayer and helped him win the battle.

When Jephthah returned home, the first person to come out to meet him was his daughter, his only child. She was dancing and playing the tambourine. What would Jephthah do? He remembered his promise and said: 'Oh no, my daughter! You have broken my heart. I made a promise to Jehovah. To keep it, I must send you to serve at the tabernacle in Shiloh.' But his daughter said to him: 'Father, if you made a promise to Jehovah, you must keep it. All I ask is that I can spend two months in the mountains with my female friends. Then I will go.' Jephthah's daughter served faithfully at the tabernacle for the rest of her life. Every year, her friends went to Shiloh to visit her.

Questions: What promise did Jephthah make?
How did Jephthah's daughter react to her father's promise?

Judges 10:6–11:11; 11:29-40; 1 Samuel 12:10, 11

37 Jehovah Speaks to Samuel

High Priest Eli had two sons who served as priests at the tabernacle. Their names were Hophni and Phinehas. They did not obey Jehovah's laws, and they treated the people very badly. When the Israelites brought sacrifices for Jehovah, Hophni and Phinehas would take the best meat for themselves. Eli heard about what his sons were doing, but he did nothing about it. Would Jehovah let this keep happening?

Although Samuel was much younger than Hophni and Phinehas, he did not imitate them. Jehovah was pleased with Samuel. One night while he was sleeping, Samuel heard a voice call his name. He got up, ran to Eli, and said: 'Here I am!' But Eli said: 'I did not call you. Go back to sleep.' Samuel went back to bed. Then it happened again. When Samuel heard the voice a third time, Eli realized that it was Jehovah who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel that if he heard the voice again, he should say: 'Speak, Jehovah. Your servant is listening.'

Samuel went back to bed. Then he heard: 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered: 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Jehovah

told him: ‘Tell Eli that I am going to punish him and his family. He knows that his sons are doing bad things in my tabernacle, but he does nothing about it.’ The next morning Samuel opened the doors to the tabernacle, as he always did. He was afraid to tell the high priest what Jehovah had said. But Eli called for him and asked: ‘My son, what did Jehovah say to you? Tell me everything.’ So Samuel told Eli everything.

As Samuel grew up, Jehovah continued to be with him. From one end of the land to the other, all the Israelites knew that Jehovah had chosen Samuel to be a prophet and a judge.

Questions: How was Samuel different from Hophni and Phinehas? What message did Jehovah give to Samuel?

1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-26; 3:1-21; 7:6

“Remember, then, your Grand Creator in the days of your youth.” —Ecclesiastes 12:1

38 Jehovah Made Samson Strong

Many of the Israelites had again gone back to worshipping idols, so Jehovah allowed the Philistines to control their land. But there were some Israelites who loved Jehovah. One such man was Manoah. He and his wife had no children. One day Jehovah sent an angel to Manoah's wife. The angel told her: 'You will have a son. He will rescue Israel from the Philistines. He will be a Nazirite.' Do you know who the Nazirites were? They were special servants of Jehovah. Nazirites were not allowed to cut their hair.

In time, Manoah's son was born, and he named him Samson. When Samson grew up, Jehovah made him very strong. He could kill a lion with his bare hands. On one occasion, Samson killed 30 Philistines all by himself. The Philistines hated him and kept looking for ways to kill him. One night while Samson was sleeping in Gaza, they went to the gate of the city and waited there so that they could kill him in the morning. But in the middle of the night, Samson got up, went to the city gate, and ripped it out of the wall. He carried the gate on his shoulders all the way to the top of a mountain near Hebron!

"For all things I have the strength through the one who gives me power." —Philippians 4:13

Later, the Philistines went to Samson's girlfriend, Delilah, and said: 'We will pay you thousands of silver pieces if you find out why Samson is so strong. We want to catch him and put him in prison.' Delilah wanted the money, so she agreed. At first, Samson refused to tell her why he was so strong. But she nagged him until he gave in and revealed his secret. 'My hair has never been cut because I am a Nazirite,' he told her. 'If my hair is cut, I will lose my strength.' Samson made a big mistake by telling her that, didn't he?

Delilah immediately told the Philistines: ‘I know his secret!’ She made Samson fall asleep on her lap, and then she had someone cut off his hair. Delilah shouted: ‘Samson, the Philistines are here!’ Samson woke up, and his strength was gone. The Philistines grabbed him, blinded him, and put him in prison.

One day thousands of Philistines gathered in the temple of their god Dagon, shouting: ‘Our god has given us Samson! Bring Samson out! Let’s have some fun with him.’ They made him stand between two pillars, and they mocked him. Samson called out: ‘O Jehovah, please give me strength one more time.’ By now, Samson’s hair had grown long again. He pushed the pillars of the temple with all his might. The whole building came crashing down, killing all the people in the temple, and Samson also died.

Questions: Why was Samson so strong? What happened to Samson when he told Delilah why he was so strong?

Judges 13:1–16:31

7

This section covers the life histories of King Saul and King David, spanning about 80 years. At first, Saul was humble and God-fearing, but he soon changed and refused to follow Jehovah's direction. Jehovah rejected him and, in time, instructed Samuel to anoint David as the next king of Israel. Jealous Saul tried many times to kill David, but David never took revenge. Saul's son Jonathan knew that David was Jehovah's choice, so he was loyal to David. David committed some serious sins, but he never rejected Jehovah's discipline. If you are a parent, help your child to see the importance of always supporting God's arrangements.

KEY LESSONS

- Our loving obedience is the most important thing that we can give to Jehovah
- Do not take revenge, but wait on Jehovah to correct injustices
- If we commit a serious sin, we should not try to hide it

39 Israel's First King

Jehovah had given the Israelites judges to lead them, but they wanted a king. They said to Samuel: 'All the nations around us have kings. We want one too.' Samuel felt that this was wrong, so he prayed to Jehovah about it. Jehovah said to him: 'The people are not rejecting you. They are rejecting me. Tell them that they can have a king but that the king will demand many things from them.' Even so, the people said: 'We don't care. We want a king!'

Jehovah told Samuel that a man named Saul would be the first king. When Saul went to visit Samuel in Ramah, Samuel anointed Saul as king by pouring oil over his head.

Later Samuel called the Israelites together to show them their new king. But they could not find Saul anywhere. Do you know why? Because he was hiding among the luggage. When they finally found Saul, they brought him out and stood him in the middle of the people. Saul was taller than everyone else, and he was very handsome. Samuel said: 'See the one whom Jehovah has chosen.' The people shouted: 'Long live the king!'

At first King Saul listened to Samuel and obeyed Jehovah. But then he changed. For example, the king was not supposed to offer sacrifices. On one occasion, Samuel told Saul to wait for him to come, but Samuel did not come immediately. So Saul decided to offer the sacrifices himself. How did Samuel react? He told him: 'You should not have disobeyed Jehovah.' Would Saul learn from his mistake?

Later, when Saul went to fight the Amalekites, Samuel told Saul not to keep any of them alive. But Saul decided not to kill King Agag. Jehovah told Samuel: 'Saul has left me, and he does not listen to me.' Samuel was very sad, and he told Saul:

“To obey is better than a sacrifice.”—1 Samuel 15:22

‘Because you have stopped obeying Jehovah, he will choose another king.’ As Samuel turned to leave, Saul grabbed him and the hem of Samuel’s coat ripped. Then Samuel told Saul: ‘Jehovah has ripped the kingdom away from you.’ Jehovah was going to give the kingdom to someone who would love and obey him.

Questions: What did the Israelites ask for? Why did Jehovah reject Saul as king?
1 Samuel 8:1-22; 9:1, 2, 15-17; 10:8, 20-24; 13:1-14; 15:1-35

40 David and Goliath

Jehovah told Samuel: ‘Go to the house of Jesse. One of his sons will be the next king of Israel.’ So Samuel went to Jesse’s house. When he saw the oldest son, he thought: ‘This young man must be the one.’ But Jehovah told Samuel that this was not the one. Jehovah said: ‘I see what is in a person’s heart, not just what he looks like on the outside.’

Jesse brought six more of his sons to Samuel. But Samuel said: ‘Jehovah has not chosen any of them. Do you have other sons?’ Jesse said: ‘I have one more, my youngest boy, David. He’s out taking care of my sheep.’ When David came in, Jehovah told Samuel: ‘He is the one!’ Samuel poured oil on David’s head, anointing him as the future king of Israel.

Some time later, the Israelites were at war with the Philistines, who had a giant warrior named Goliath fighting for them. Day after day, Goliath mocked the Israelites. He shouted: ‘Send me a man who will fight me. If he wins, we will be your slaves. But if I win, you will be our slaves.’

David came to the Israelite army camp with food for his brothers who were soldiers. He heard Goliath and said: ‘I will fight him!’ King Saul said: ‘But you are just a boy.’ David replied: ‘Jehovah will help me.’

"With men it is impossible but not so with God, for all things are possible with God." —Mark 10:27

Saul tried to let David use his armor, but David said: 'I can't fight in this armor.' David took his sling and went to a stream. He chose five smooth stones and put them in a pouch. Then David ran toward Goliath. The giant shouted: 'Come here, little boy. I will feed you to the birds of the sky and to the wild animals.' David wasn't afraid. He shouted back: 'You come with a sword and a spear, but I come in the name of Jehovah. You are not fighting against us; you are fighting against God. Everyone here will see that Jehovah is more powerful than a sword or a spear. He will give all of you into our hand.'

David slipped a stone into his sling and swung it as hard as he could. With Jehovah's help, the stone shot out and sank into Goliath's forehead. The giant fell dead to the ground. Then the Philistines ran for their lives. Do you trust in Jehovah, as David did?

Questions: Who did Jehovah choose as the next king of Israel? How did David defeat Goliath?

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:1-54

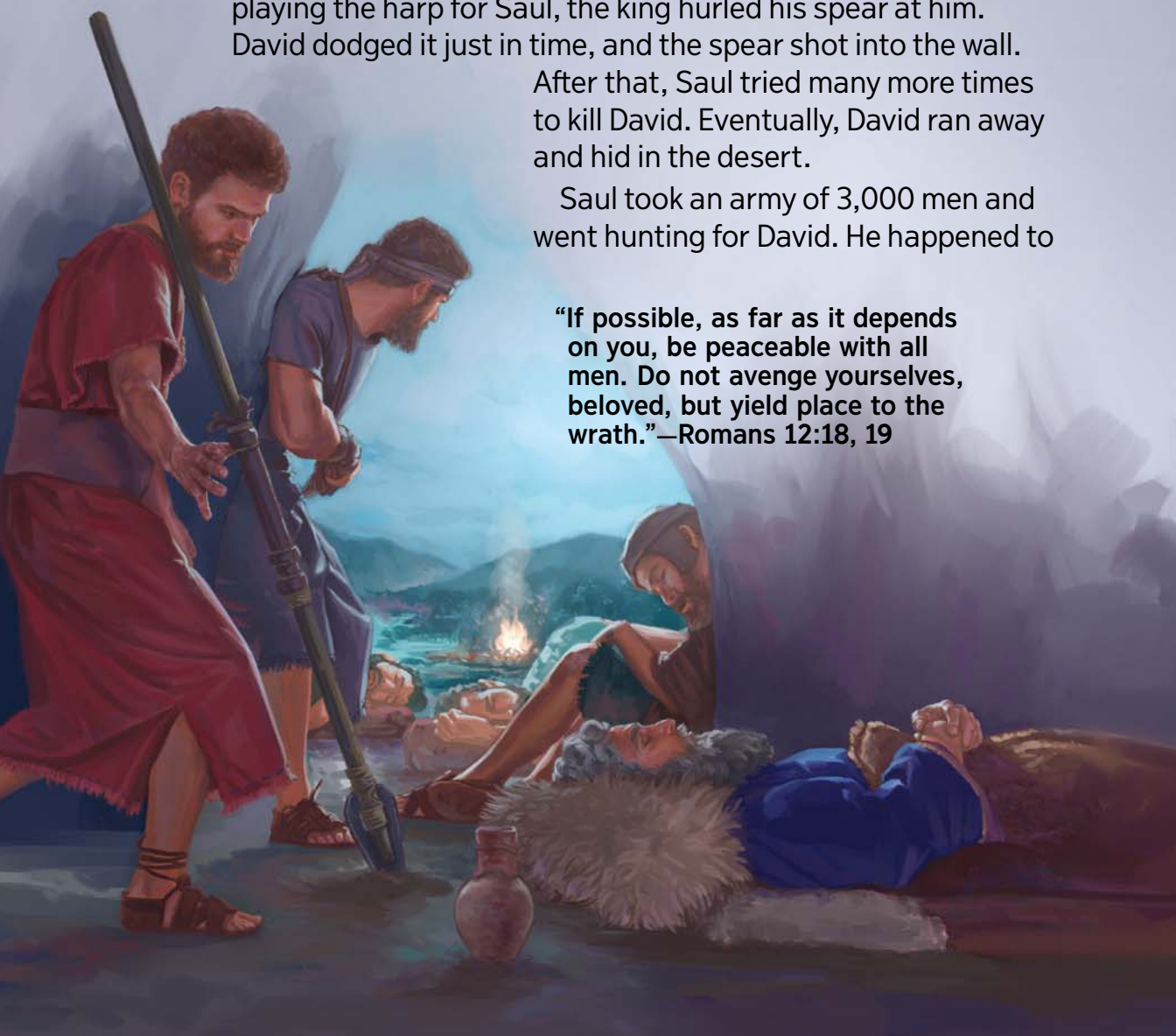
41 David and Saul

After David killed Goliath, King Saul put him in charge of his army. David won many battles, and he became very popular. Whenever David came home from war, the women would come out dancing and singing: ‘Saul has struck down thousands, and David has struck down tens of thousands!’ Saul became jealous of David and wanted to kill him.

David could play the harp very well. One day while David was playing the harp for Saul, the king hurled his spear at him. David dodged it just in time, and the spear shot into the wall. After that, Saul tried many more times to kill David. Eventually, David ran away and hid in the desert.

Saul took an army of 3,000 men and went hunting for David. He happened to

“If possible, as far as it depends on you, be peaceable with all men. Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but yield place to the wrath.”—Romans 12:18, 19



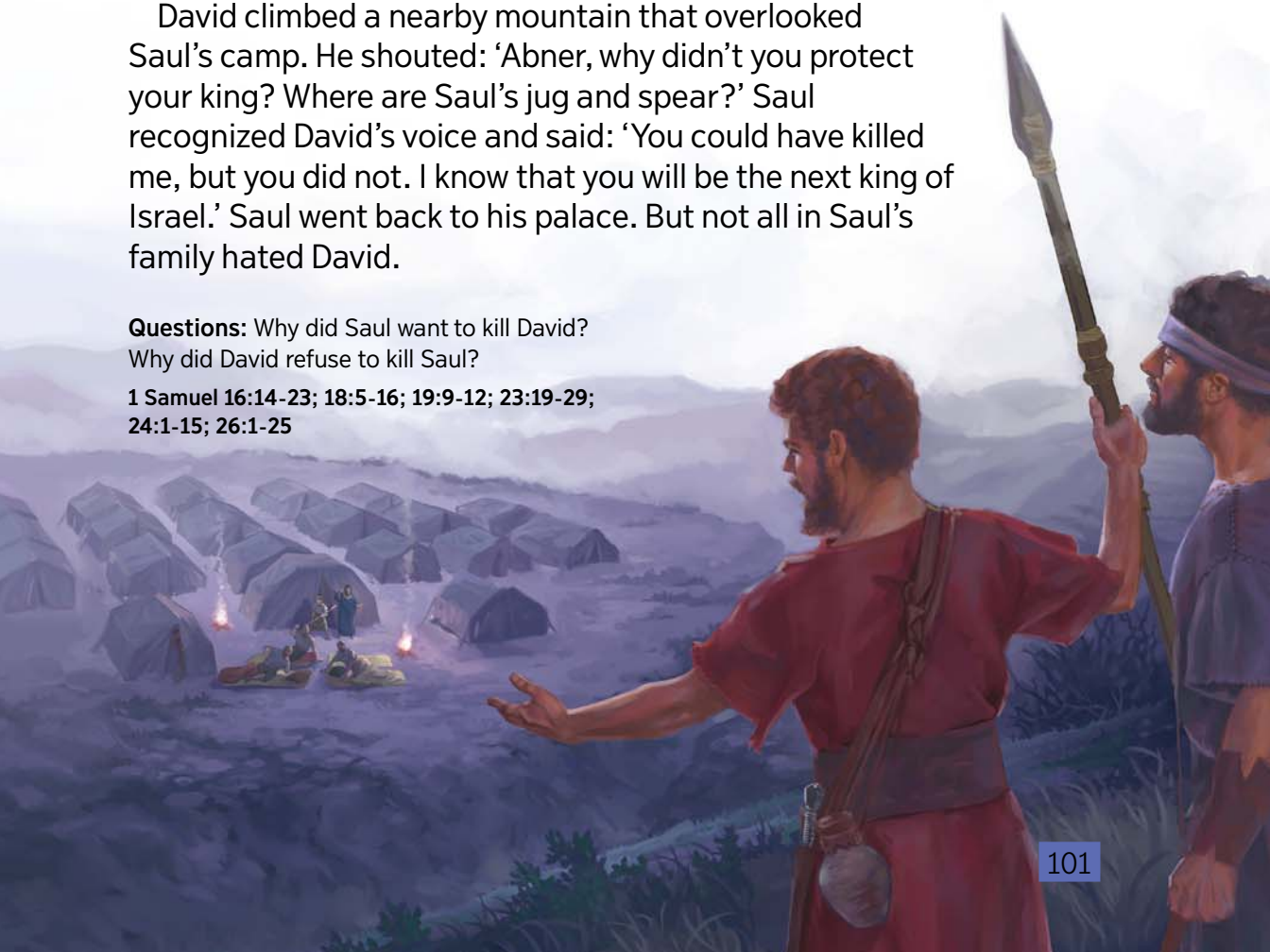
enter the very cave where David and his men were hiding. David's men whispered: 'This is your chance to kill Saul.' David crept toward Saul and cut off a piece of the king's coat. Saul did not notice. Afterward, David felt very bad that he had not shown respect for Jehovah's anointed king. He did not allow his men to attack Saul. He even called out to Saul, saying that he could have killed Saul when he had the chance. Would Saul change his mind about David?

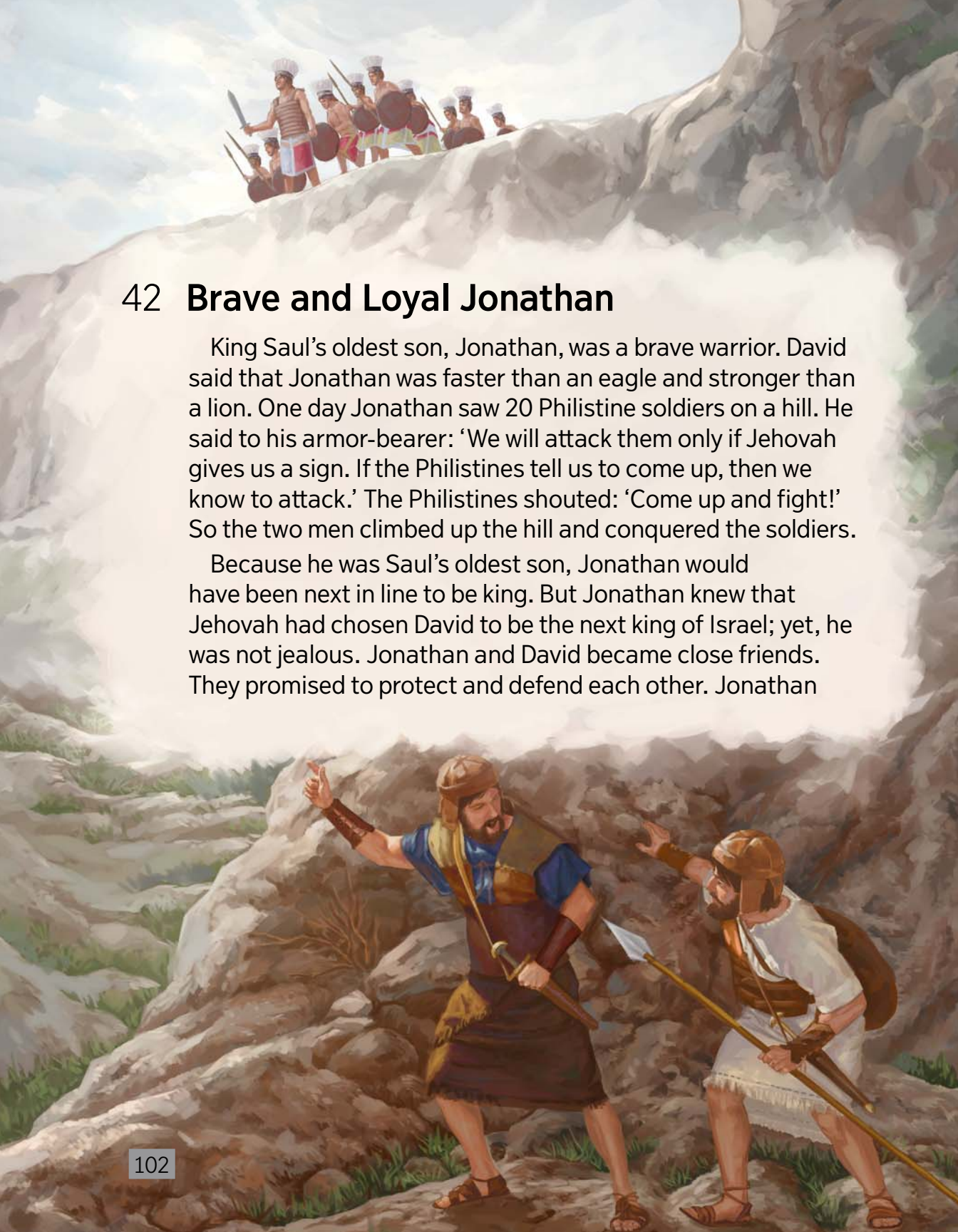
No. Saul kept hunting for David. One night David and his nephew Abishai sneaked into Saul's camp. Even Abner, Saul's bodyguard, was sleeping. Abishai said: 'This is our chance! Let me kill him.' David replied: 'Jehovah will deal with Saul. Let's just take his spear and his water jug and go.'

David climbed a nearby mountain that overlooked Saul's camp. He shouted: 'Abner, why didn't you protect your king? Where are Saul's jug and spear?' Saul recognized David's voice and said: 'You could have killed me, but you did not. I know that you will be the next king of Israel.' Saul went back to his palace. But not all in Saul's family hated David.

Questions: Why did Saul want to kill David? Why did David refuse to kill Saul?

1 Samuel 16:14-23; 18:5-16; 19:9-12; 23:19-29; 24:1-15; 26:1-25





42 Brave and Loyal Jonathan

King Saul's oldest son, Jonathan, was a brave warrior. David said that Jonathan was faster than an eagle and stronger than a lion. One day Jonathan saw 20 Philistine soldiers on a hill. He said to his armor-bearer: 'We will attack them only if Jehovah gives us a sign. If the Philistines tell us to come up, then we know to attack.' The Philistines shouted: 'Come up and fight!' So the two men climbed up the hill and conquered the soldiers.

Because he was Saul's oldest son, Jonathan would have been next in line to be king. But Jonathan knew that Jehovah had chosen David to be the next king of Israel; yet, he was not jealous. Jonathan and David became close friends. They promised to protect and defend each other. Jonathan

gave David his own coat, sword, bow, and belt as a sign of friendship.

When David was running away from Saul, Jonathan went to him and said: ‘Be strong, and have courage. Jehovah has chosen you to be king. Even my father knows that.’ Would you like to have a good friend like Jonathan?

More than once, Jonathan risked his life to help his friend. He knew that King Saul wanted to kill David, so he said to his father: ‘It would be a sin for you to kill David; he has done nothing wrong.’ Saul was furious with Jonathan. Some years later, Saul and Jonathan died together in battle.

After Jonathan died, David searched for Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth. When David found him, he told Mephibosheth: ‘Because your father was a good friend to me, I will take care of you for the rest of your life. You will live in my palace and eat at my table.’ David never forgot his friend Jonathan.

Questions: How did Jonathan show that he was brave? How did Jonathan show that he was loyal?

1 Samuel 14:1-23; 18:1-4; 19:1-6; 20:32-42; 23:16-18; 31:1-7; 2 Samuel 1:23; 9:1-13

“Love one another just as I have loved you. No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his life in behalf of his friends.” —John 15:12, 13

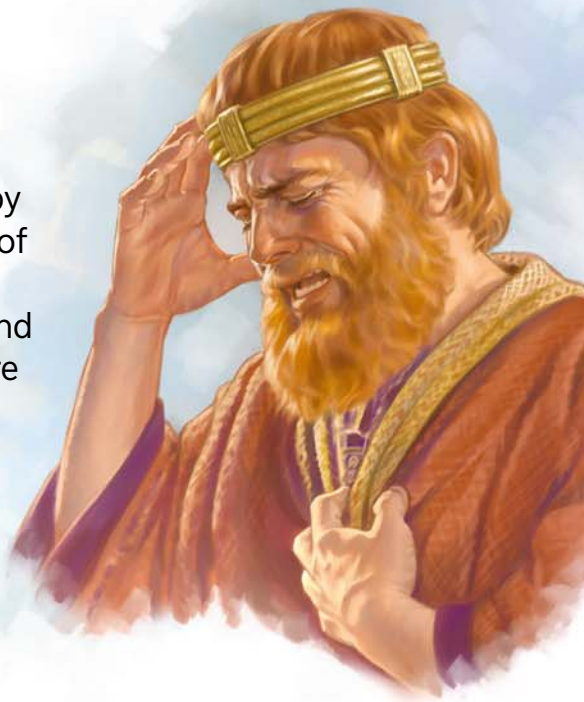
43 The Sin of King David

When Saul died, David became king. He was 30 years old. After he had been king for some years, one night from the rooftop of his palace, he saw a beautiful woman. David found out that her name was Bath-sheba and that she was married to a soldier named Uriah. David had Bath-sheba come to his palace. They had sexual relations, and she became pregnant. David tried to hide what he had done. He told his general to put Uriah on the front lines of the battle and then to retreat from behind him. After Uriah was killed in battle, David married Bath-sheba.

But Jehovah saw all the bad things that had happened. What would he do? Jehovah sent the prophet Nathan to David. Nathan said: 'A rich man had many sheep, and a poor man had only one small lamb that he loved very much. The rich man took the poor man's only lamb.' David was angry and said: 'That rich man deserves to die!' Nathan then told David: 'You are that rich man!' David was heartbroken, and he admitted to Nathan: 'I have sinned against Jehovah.' This sin brought a lot of trouble on David and his family. Jehovah punished David but allowed him to live because he was honest and humble.

David wanted to build a temple for Jehovah, but Jehovah chose David's son Solomon to build the temple. David started

to get things ready for Solomon and said: ‘Jehovah’s temple must be magnificent. Solomon is still young, but I will help him by getting things ready.’ David donated a lot of his own money for the building work. He found skilled workers. He collected gold and silver, and he had cedars brought from Tyre and Sidon. Near the end of his life, David gave Solomon the plans for building the temple. He said: ‘Jehovah had me write these things down for you. Jehovah will help you. Don’t be afraid. Be strong and get to work.’



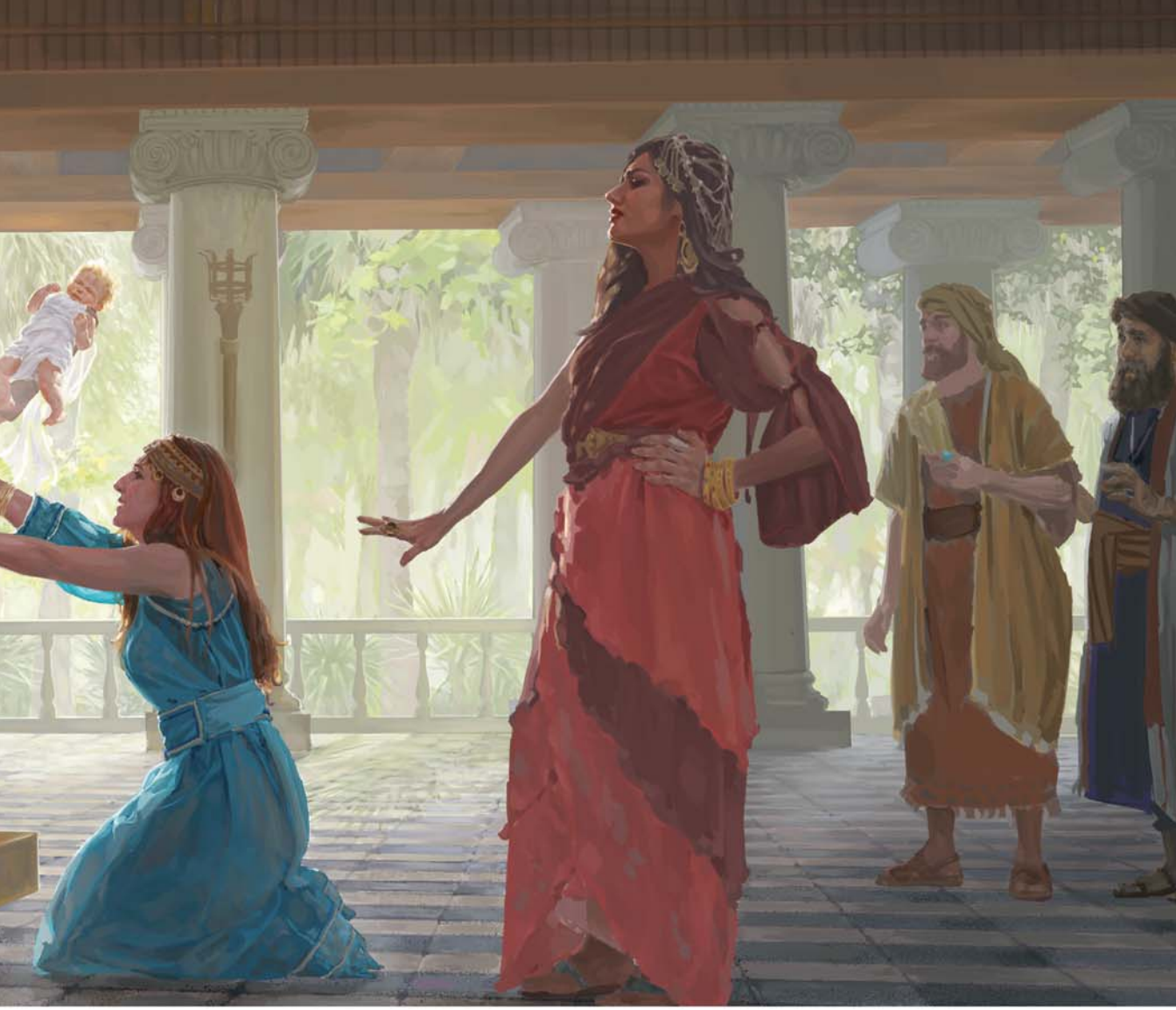
Questions: What was David’s sin? What did David do to help his son Solomon?

2 Samuel 5:3, 4, 10; 7:1-16; 8:1-14; 11:1–12:14; 1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:11-21; Psalm 51:1-19

“The one covering over his transgressions will not succeed, but whoever confesses and abandons them will be shown mercy.”—Proverbs 28:13

8

Jehovah blessed Solomon with great wisdom and gave him the privilege of building the temple, but he gradually left Jehovah. If you are a parent, explain to your child how false worshippers turned Solomon away from God. The kingdom was divided, and bad kings led the nation into apostasy and idol worship. During this time, many loyal prophets of Jehovah were persecuted and killed. Queen Jezebel dragged the northern kingdom even deeper into apostasy. It was a dark time in the history of Israel. But there were still many faithful servants of Jehovah among the Israelites, including King Jehoshaphat and the prophet Elijah.



KEY LESSONS

- Serve Jehovah faithfully, even if your family and friends do not
- If you leave Jehovah, everything will go wrong; but if you stick with him, he will bless you
- Often when you feel that there is no way out, Jehovah will show his power in ways that you cannot imagine

44 A Temple for Jehovah

After Solomon became the king of Israel, Jehovah asked him: ‘What would you like me to give you?’ Solomon said: ‘I am young, and I do not know what I am doing. Please give me wisdom to take care of your people.’ Jehovah said: ‘Because you asked to be wise, I will make you the wisest man on earth. I will also make you very rich. And if you obey me, you will have a long life.’

Solomon started building the temple. He used the finest gold, silver, wood, and stone. Thousands of skilled men and women worked on the temple. After seven years, the temple was ready to be dedicated to Jehovah. It had an altar, and there were offerings on it. Solomon knelt in front of the altar and prayed: ‘O Jehovah, this temple is not big enough or beautiful enough for you, but please accept our worship and listen to our prayers.’ What did Jehovah think of the temple and of Solomon’s prayer? As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from the sky and burned up the offerings on the altar. Jehovah approved of the temple. When the Israelites saw this, they rejoiced.

King Solomon was known for his wisdom throughout Israel and even in faraway places. People came to Solomon for help with their problems. Even the queen of Sheba came to test him with difficult questions. When she heard his replies, she said: ‘I did not believe what people had told me about you, but now I see that you are even wiser than they said. Your God, Jehovah, has blessed you.’ Life was good for the nation of Israel, and the people were happy. But things were about to change.

Questions: Why did Jehovah give Solomon special wisdom?
How did Jehovah show that he approved of the temple?

1 Kings 2:12; 3:4-28; 4:29–5:18; 6:37, 38; 7:15–8:66; 10:1-13; 2 Chronicles 7:1; 9:22

"Look! something more than Solomon is here." —Matthew 12:42

45 A Kingdom Divided

As long as Solomon worshipped Jehovah, there was peace in Israel. But Solomon married many women from other lands, and these wives worshipped idols. Little by little, Solomon changed, and he began to worship idols too. Jehovah was angry. He told Solomon: ‘Israel will be ripped away from your family and divided in two. I will give the large part to one of your servants, and your family will rule only the small part.’

Jehovah made his decision clear in another way too. One of Solomon’s servants, Jeroboam, was traveling on the road when he met Ahijah the prophet. Ahijah ripped his own robe into 12 pieces and told Jeroboam: ‘Jehovah will take the kingdom of Israel away from Solomon’s family and divide it in two. Take ten of these pieces because you will be king over ten tribes.’ King Solomon heard about this and wanted to kill Jeroboam! So Jeroboam ran away to Egypt. In time, Solomon died and his son Rehoboam became king. Then Jeroboam felt that it was safe to return to Israel.

"Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have? . . . Or what does a believer share in common with an unbeliever?" —2 Corinthians 6:14, 15

The elders of Israel told Rehoboam: 'If you treat the people well, they will be loyal to you.' But Rehoboam's younger friends said: 'You need to be harsh with the people! Make them work even harder!' Rehoboam followed his young friends' advice. He was cruel to the people, and they rebelled. They made Jeroboam king of the ten tribes, which became known as the kingdom of Israel. The other two tribes became known as the kingdom of Judah, and they stayed loyal to Rehoboam. The 12 tribes of Israel were now divided.

Jeroboam did not want his people to go to worship in Jerusalem, which was in Rehoboam's kingdom. Do you know why? Jeroboam was afraid that they would turn on him and support Rehoboam. So he made two golden calves and told his people: 'Jerusalem is too far away. You can worship here.' The people began to worship the golden calves and to forget Jehovah again.

Questions: Why was Israel divided? What bad things did King Rehoboam and King Jeroboam do?

1 Kings 11:1-13, 26-43; 12:1-33

46 A Test on Mount Carmel

The ten-tribe kingdom of Israel had many bad kings, but Ahab was one of the worst. He married an evil woman who worshipped Baal. Her name was Jezebel. Ahab and Jezebel filled the land with Baal worship and murdered Jehovah's prophets. What did Jehovah do? He sent the prophet Elijah to give Ahab a message.

Elijah told King Ahab that because of his badness, there would be no rain in Israel. For more than three years, crops did not grow and the people went hungry. Jehovah later sent Elijah back to Ahab. The king said: 'You are a troublemaker! This is all your fault.' Elijah answered: 'I didn't cause this drought. You did by worshipping Baal. We will make a test. Gather the nation and the Baal prophets on the top of Mount Carmel.'

The people gathered on the mountain. Elijah said: 'Make up your minds. If Jehovah is the true God, follow him. If Baal is, then follow him. I make this challenge. The 450 Baal prophets should prepare an offering and call to their god, and I will prepare an offering and call to Jehovah. The one who answers with fire is the true God.' The people agreed.

The prophets of Baal prepared an offering. All day long they called to their god: 'O Baal, answer us!' When Baal didn't answer, Elijah made fun of him. He said: 'Call as loud as you can. Maybe he has fallen asleep, and someone needs to wake him up.' Evening came, and the prophets of Baal kept calling. But there was still no answer.

Elijah put his offering on an altar and poured water all over it. Then he prayed: 'O Jehovah, please let the people know that you are the true God.' Immediately, Jehovah sent fire from heaven to burn up the offering. The people cried out: 'Jehovah is the true God!' Elijah

said: ‘Do not let the prophets of Baal escape!’ That day, the 450 prophets of Baal were killed.

“May people know that you, whose name is Jehovah, you alone are the Most High over all the earth.” —Psalm 83:18

When a small cloud appeared over the sea, Elijah told Ahab: ‘A storm is coming. Hitch up your chariot, and go home.’ The sky became dark with clouds, the wind blew, and a heavy rain began to fall. Finally, the drought had ended. Ahab drove his chariot as fast as he could. With Jehovah’s help, Elijah actually ran faster than the chariot! But were all of Elijah’s problems over? Let’s see.

Questions: What was the test on Mount Carmel? How did Jehovah answer Elijah’s prayer?

1 Kings 16:29-33; 17:1; 18:1, 2, 17-46; James 5:16-18

47 Jehovah Strengthened Elijah

Jezebel heard what happened to the Baal prophets, and she was very angry. She sent a message to Elijah: 'Tomorrow, you will be dead like the prophets of Baal.' Elijah became very afraid and ran away to the desert. He prayed: 'Jehovah, I can't take any more. Just let me die.' Exhausted, Elijah fell asleep under a tree.

An angel woke him up and gently said: 'Get up and eat.' Elijah saw a round loaf of bread on heated stones and a jug of water. He ate and drank and went back to sleep. The angel woke him up again and said: 'Eat. You need strength for your journey.' So Elijah ate some more. Then he traveled for 40 days and 40 nights, until he reached Mount Horeb. There Elijah went into a cave to sleep. But Jehovah spoke to him. He said: 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' Elijah answered: 'The Israelites have broken their promise to you. They destroyed your altars and killed your prophets. Now they are trying to kill me too.'

Jehovah told him: 'Go and stand on the mountain.' First, a powerful wind blew past the cave. Next, there was an earthquake and then a fire. Finally, Elijah heard a calm, low voice. He covered his face with his coat and stood outside the cave. Jehovah then asked him why he ran away. Elijah said: 'I'm the only one left.' But Jehovah told him: 'You are not alone. There are 7,000 in Israel who still worship me. Go and appoint Elisha as prophet in your place.' Immediately, Elijah went to do what Jehovah had told him. Do you think that Jehovah will also help you when you do what he wants you to do? Yes, he will. Let's find out about something that happened during the drought.

Questions: Why did Elijah run for his life? What did Jehovah tell Elijah?

1 Kings 19:1-18; Romans 11:2-4

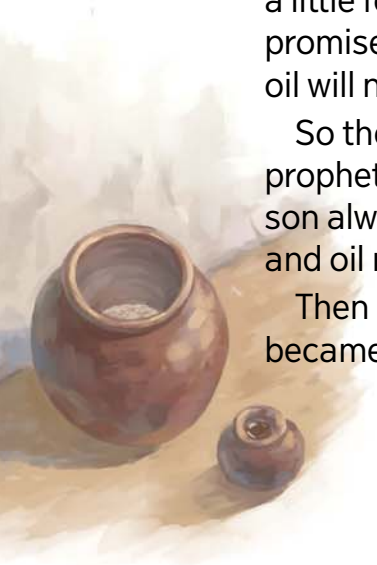
“Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God.”—Philippians 4:6

48 A Widow's Son Came Back to Life

During the drought, Jehovah told Elijah: 'Go to Zarephath. A widow there will give you food.' At the gates of the city, Elijah saw a poor widow gathering wood. He asked her for a cup of water. As she went to get it, Elijah called after her: 'Please, bring me a piece of bread.' But the widow said: 'I don't have any bread to give you. I have only enough flour and oil to make a little food for my son and myself.' Elijah told her: 'Jehovah has promised that if you make some bread for me, your flour and oil will not run out until it rains again.'

So the widow went home and made bread for Jehovah's prophet. Just as Jehovah had promised, the widow and her son always had food to eat during the drought. Her jars of flour and oil remained full.

Then something terrible happened. The widow's little boy became so sick that he died. She begged Elijah for help.



“Consider the ravens: They neither sow seed nor reap; they have neither barn nor storehouse; yet God feeds them. Are you not worth much more than birds?”—Luke 12:24

Elijah took the boy from her arms and carried him to a room upstairs in her house. He laid him down on a bed and prayed: ‘Jehovah, please bring this child back to life.’ Do you know why that would be an amazing thing for Jehovah to do? Because as far as we know, no one had ever come back to life before. And this widow and her son were not even Israelites.

But the boy’s life came back into him, and he began to breathe! Elijah said to the widow: ‘See! Your son is alive.’ She was overjoyed and said to Elijah: ‘You really are a man of God. I know this because you speak only what Jehovah tells you to say.’

Questions: How did the widow of Zarephath show her trust in Jehovah? How do we know that Elijah was a true prophet of God?

1 Kings 17:8-24; Luke 4:25, 26

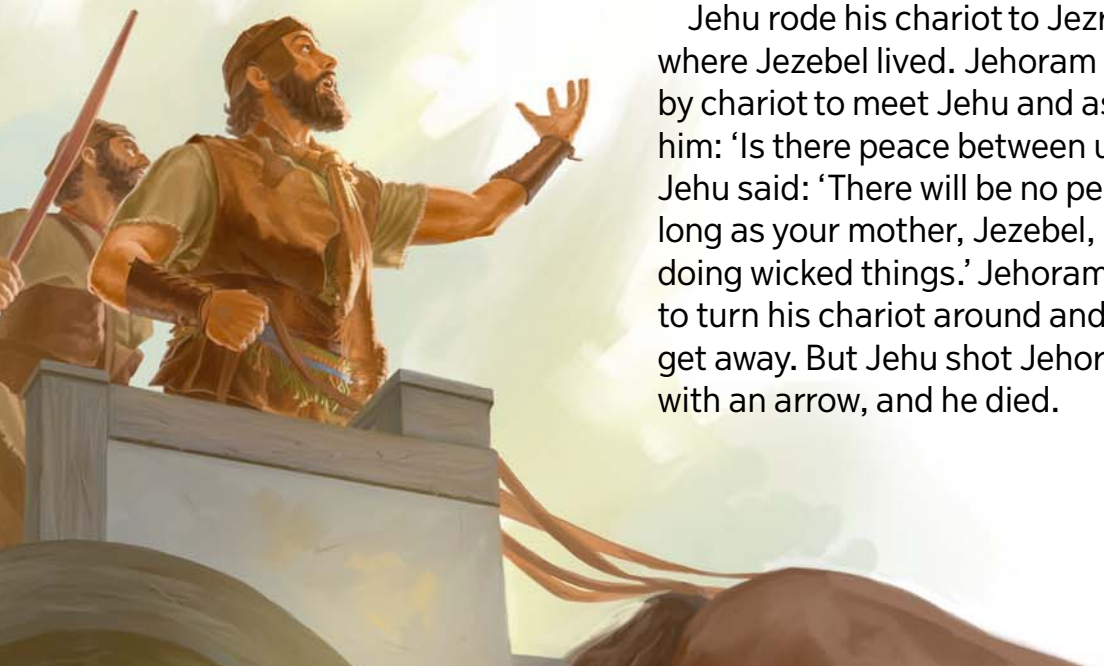
49 A Wicked Queen Is Punished

From the window of his palace in Jezreel, King Ahab could see a vineyard that belonged to a man named Naboth. Ahab wanted this vineyard, and he tried to buy it from Naboth. But Naboth refused to sell it to him because it was against Jehovah's Law to sell inherited land. Did Ahab respect Naboth for doing the right thing? No. Ahab was very angry. He was so upset that he would not leave his bedroom, and he refused to eat.

Ahab's wife, wicked Queen Jezebel, told him: 'You are the king of Israel. You can have anything you want. I will get that land for you.' She wrote letters to the elders of the city, telling them to accuse Naboth of having cursed God and to stone him to death. The elders did what Jezebel told them to do, and then Jezebel said to Ahab: 'Naboth is dead. The vineyard is yours.'

Naboth was not the only innocent person whom Jezebel murdered. She murdered many people who loved Jehovah. She worshipped idols and did other bad things. Jehovah saw all the bad things that Jezebel did. What would he do about her?

After Ahab died, his son Jehoram became king. Jehovah sent a man named Jehu to punish Jezebel and her family.



Jehu rode his chariot to Jezreel, where Jezebel lived. Jehoram came by chariot to meet Jehu and asked him: 'Is there peace between us?' Jehu said: 'There will be no peace as long as your mother, Jezebel, is doing wicked things.' Jehoram tried to turn his chariot around and get away. But Jehu shot Jehoram with an arrow, and he died.

“An inheritance obtained first by greed will not be a blessing in the end.” —Proverbs 20:21

Then Jehu went to Jezebel’s palace. When she heard that he was coming, she put on makeup, did her hair, and waited by her upstairs window. When Jehu arrived, she greeted him rudely. Jehu shouted to her servants who were standing next to her: “Throw her down!” They pushed Jezebel out of the window, and she fell to the ground and died.

After that, Jehu killed Ahab’s 70 sons and cleansed the land of Baal worship. Can you see that Jehovah knows everything and that at the right time, he punishes those who do bad things?

Questions: What did Jezebel do to get Naboth’s vineyard? Why did Jehovah punish Jezebel?

1 Kings 21:1-29; 2 Kings 9:1–10:30

50 Jehovah Defends Jehoshaphat

Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, destroyed the Baal altars and idols in the land. He wanted the people to know Jehovah's laws. So he sent princes and Levites to all of Judah to teach Jehovah's laws to the people.

The nations nearby were afraid to attack Judah because they knew that Jehovah was with his people. They even brought gifts to King Jehoshaphat. But then the Moabites, the Ammonites, and those from the region of Seir came to fight Judah. Jehoshaphat knew that he needed Jehovah's help. He had all the men, women, and children come together in Jerusalem. In front of them all, he prayed: 'Jehovah, without you, we cannot win. Please tell us what to do.'

Jehovah answered the prayer: 'Do not be afraid. I will help you. Take your position, stand still, and see how I will save you.' How did Jehovah save them?

The next morning, Jehoshaphat selected singers and told them to march in front of the army. They marched from Jerusalem out to the battlefield in a place called Tekoa.

As the singers were praising Jehovah joyfully with a loud voice, Jehovah fought for his people. He made the Ammonites and the Moabites so confused that they began to attack one another, and not one of them survived. But Jehovah protected the people of Judah, the soldiers, and the priests. All the people in the nearby countries heard about what Jehovah had done, and they knew that Jehovah was still defending his people. How does Jehovah save his people? In many ways. He doesn't need help from humans to do so.

Questions: What kind of king was Jehoshaphat?
How did Jehovah protect Judah?

2 Chronicles 17:1-19; 20:1-30

"You will not need to fight this battle. Take your position, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah in your behalf."
—2 Chronicles 20:17

9

This section teaches us about young people, prophets, and kings who displayed remarkable faith in Jehovah. In Syria, a little Israelite girl had faith that Jehovah's prophet would heal Naaman. The prophet Elisha had complete confidence that Jehovah would protect him from an enemy army. High Priest Jehoiada risked his life to protect young Jehoash from his wicked grandmother, Athaliah. King Hezekiah trusted that Jehovah would rescue Jerusalem, and he did not give in to the Assyrian threat. King Josiah erased idolatry from the land, restored the temple, and led the nation back to true worship.

KEY LESSONS

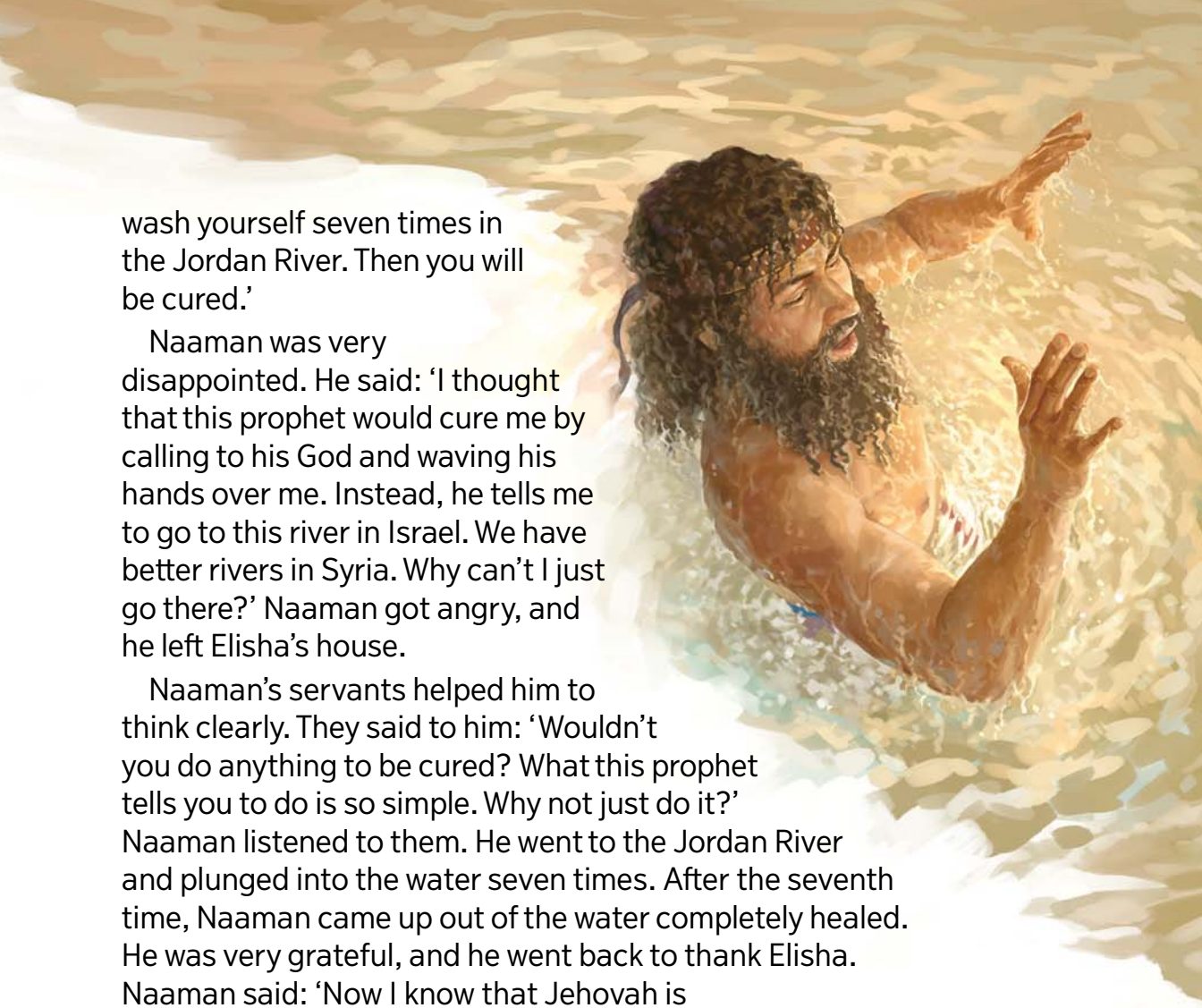
- You are never too young to witness about Jehovah
- When we do what is right, Jehovah promises to be with us
- Like Jonah, learn to follow Jehovah's instructions and not to complain when things don't go your way

51 The Warrior and the Little Girl

In the land of Syria, there was a little Israelite girl who was far away from her home. She had been taken from her family by the Syrian army, and now she was a servant to the wife of an army chief called Naaman. The little girl worshipped Jehovah, even though the people around her did not.

Naaman had a horrible skin disease, and he was in pain all the time. The little girl really wanted to help him. She told Naaman's wife: 'I know someone who can make your husband better. In Israel, there is a prophet of Jehovah named Elisha. He can cure your husband.'

Naaman's wife told Naaman what the little girl had said. He was willing to try anything, so he went to Elisha's house in Israel. Naaman expected Elisha to receive him as an important person. But instead of speaking to him personally, Elisha sent his servant to greet Naaman and give him a message: 'Go and



wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then you will be cured.'

Naaman was very disappointed. He said: 'I thought that this prophet would cure me by calling to his God and waving his hands over me. Instead, he tells me to go to this river in Israel. We have better rivers in Syria. Why can't I just go there?' Naaman got angry, and he left Elisha's house.

Naaman's servants helped him to think clearly. They said to him: 'Wouldn't you do anything to be cured? What this prophet tells you to do is so simple. Why not just do it?' Naaman listened to them. He went to the Jordan River and plunged into the water seven times. After the seventh time, Naaman came up out of the water completely healed. He was very grateful, and he went back to thank Elisha. Naaman said: 'Now I know that Jehovah is the true God.' How do you think the little Israelite girl felt when Naaman came back healed?

"Out of the mouth of children and infants, you have brought forth praise."—Matthew 21:16

Questions: Do you think that it was easy for the little Israelite girl to speak to Naaman's wife? What do you think helped her to be so brave?

2 Kings 5:1-19; Luke 4:27

52 Jehovah's Fiery Army

The king of Syria, Ben-hadad, kept attacking Israel. But the prophet Elisha warned the king of Israel each time, so he was able to escape. So Ben-hadad decided to kidnap Elisha. He found out that Elisha was in the city of Dothan, and he sent the Syrian army there to capture him.

The Syrians came to Dothan at night. The next morning, Elisha's servant went outside and saw that the city was surrounded by a large army. He was terrified and shouted: 'Elisha, what should we do?' Elisha told him: 'There are more with us than with them.' At that moment, Jehovah made Elisha's servant see that the mountains all around the city were full of horses and fiery war chariots.

When the Syrian soldiers tried to capture Elisha, he prayed: 'Jehovah, please make them blind.' Suddenly, although they could still see, the soldiers had no idea where they were. Elisha

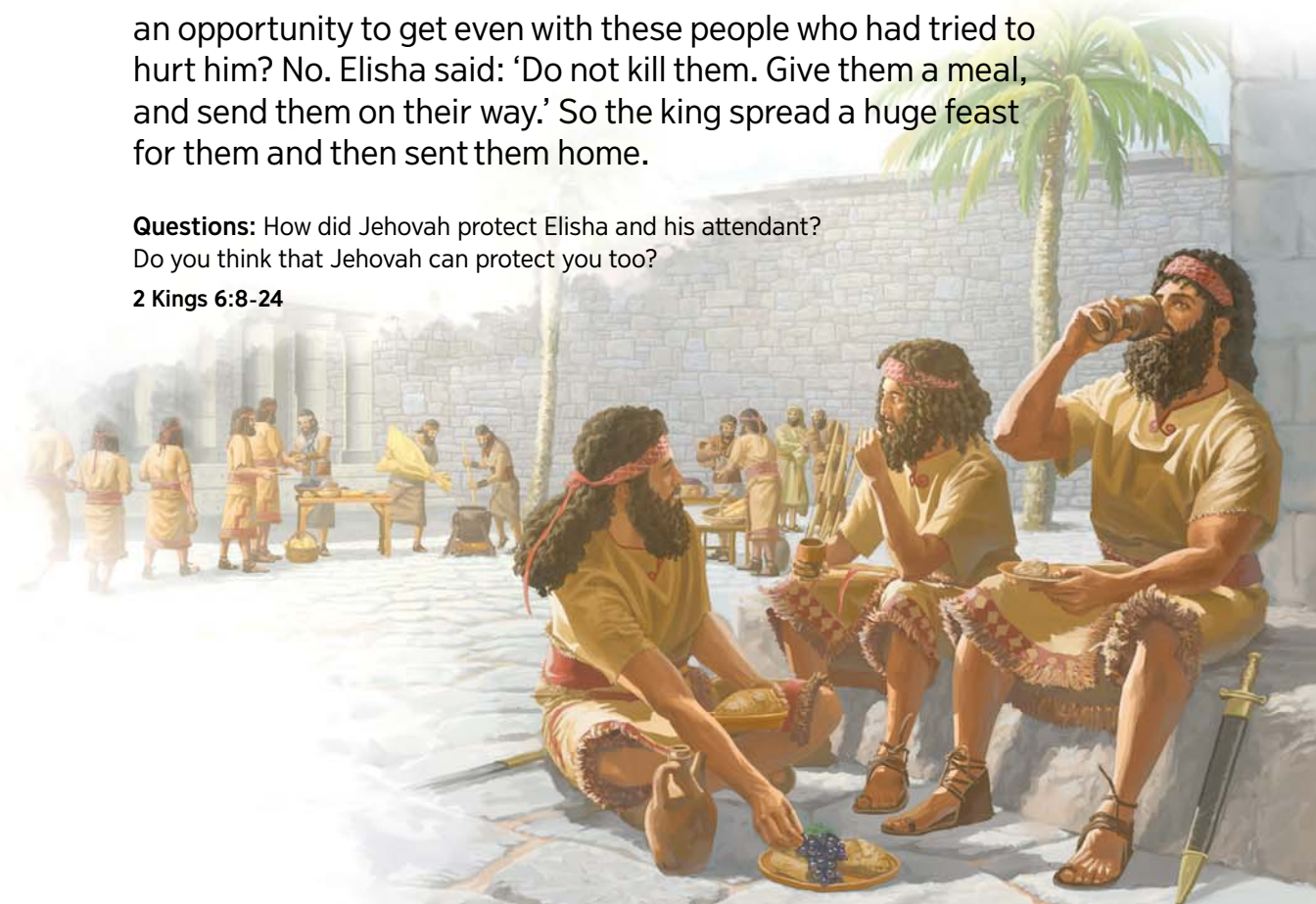
“This is the confidence that we have toward him, that no matter what we ask according to his will, he hears us.”—1 John 5:14

told the soldiers: ‘You are in the wrong city. Follow me, I will take you to the man you are looking for.’ They followed Elisha all the way to Samaria, where the king of Israel lived.

Too late, the Syrians realized where they were. The king of Israel asked Elisha: ‘Should I kill them?’ Did Elisha use this as an opportunity to get even with these people who had tried to hurt him? No. Elisha said: ‘Do not kill them. Give them a meal, and send them on their way.’ So the king spread a huge feast for them and then sent them home.

Questions: How did Jehovah protect Elisha and his attendant? Do you think that Jehovah can protect you too?

2 Kings 6:8-24



53 The Courage of Jehoiada

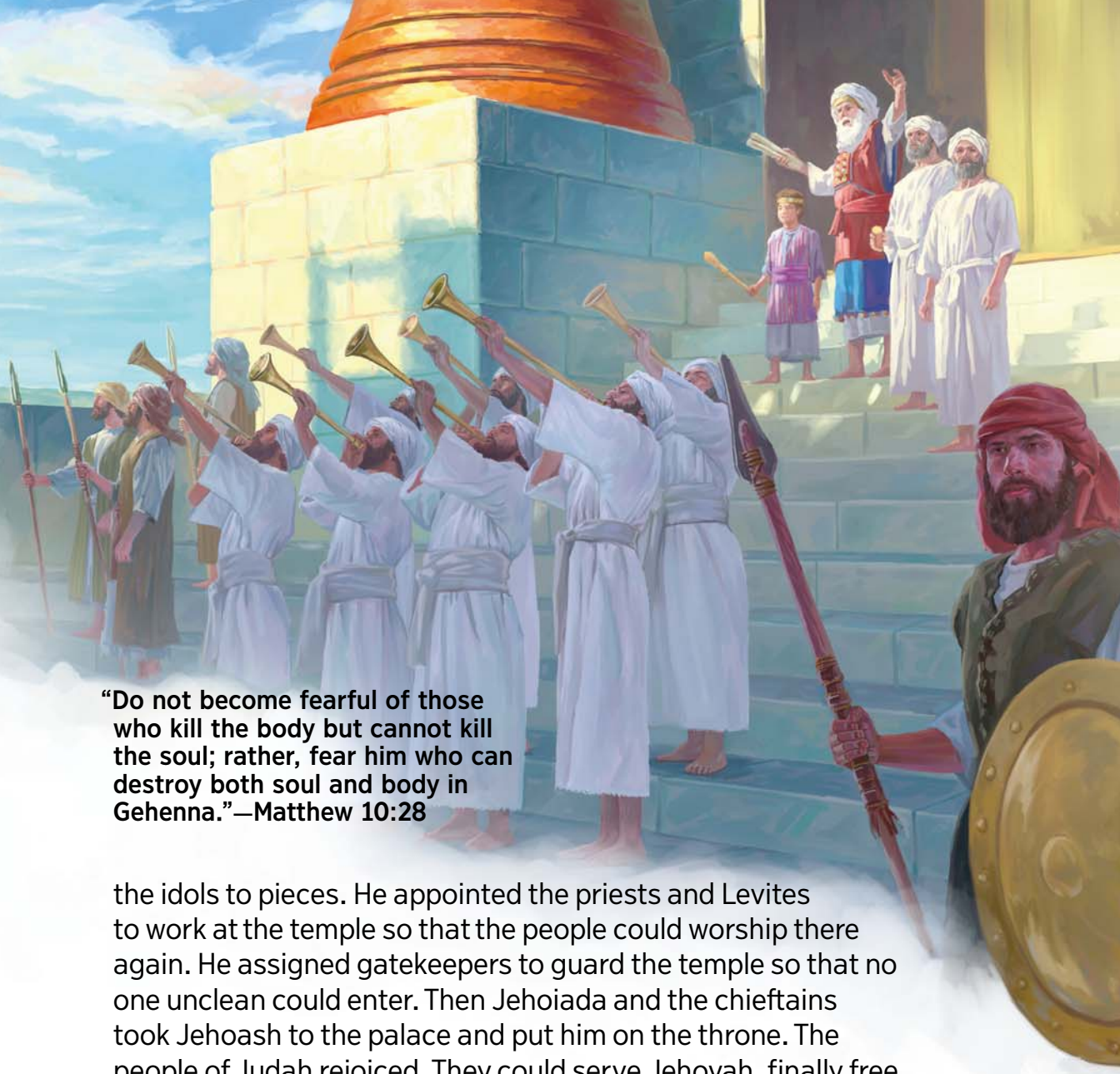
Jezebel had a daughter called Athaliah, who was just as wicked as her mother. Athaliah was married to the king of Judah. When her husband died, her son began to rule. But when her son died, Athaliah made herself the ruler of Judah. Then she tried to destroy the entire royal line, murdering anyone who could become ruler instead of her, even her own grandsons. Everyone was afraid of her.

High Priest Jehoiada and his wife, Jehosheba, knew that what Athaliah was doing was very bad. They risked their lives to hide one of Athaliah's grandsons, a baby named Jehoash. They raised him at the temple.

When Jehoash was seven years old, Jehoiada gathered all the chieftains and Levites and told them: 'Guard the doors of the temple, and don't let anyone in.' Then Jehoiada made Jehoash the king of Judah and put a crown on his head. The people of Judah shouted: 'Long live the king!'

Queen Athaliah heard the roar of the crowd and rushed to the temple. When she saw the new king, she cried out: "Conspiracy! Conspiracy!" The chieftains grabbed the wicked queen, took her away, and put her to death. But what about the bad influence she'd had on the nation?

Jehoiada helped the nation to make a covenant with Jehovah in which they promised to worship only Him. Jehoiada had them tear down the temple of Baal and smash



“Do not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear him who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.”—Matthew 10:28

the idols to pieces. He appointed the priests and Levites to work at the temple so that the people could worship there again. He assigned gatekeepers to guard the temple so that no one unclean could enter. Then Jehoiada and the chieftains took Jehoash to the palace and put him on the throne. The people of Judah rejoiced. They could serve Jehovah, finally free from wicked Athaliah and from Baal worship. Do you see how Jehoiada’s courage helped many people?

Questions: How did Jehoiada show courage?
Do you think that Jehovah can help you be brave?

2 Kings 11:1–12:12; 2 Chronicles 21:1-6; 22:10-12; 23:1–24:16

54 Jehovah Was Patient With Jonah

In the Assyrian city of Nineveh, the people were wicked. Jehovah told his prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn them that they should change their ways. But Jonah ran away in the opposite direction. He got on a ship bound for Tarshish and sailed away.

While the ship was at sea, a violent storm came up, and the sailors were terrified. They prayed to their gods and asked: ‘Why is this happening?’ Finally, Jonah told them: ‘I am to blame. I am running away from what Jehovah told me to do. Throw me into the sea, and the storm will stop.’ The sailors didn’t want to throw Jonah overboard, but he insisted. When they did throw him into the sea, the storm stopped.

Jonah thought he was going to die. As he sank deeper and deeper into the sea, he prayed to Jehovah. Then Jehovah sent a huge fish. It swallowed Jonah, but that didn’t kill him. From inside the fish, Jonah prayed: ‘I promise to obey you always.’ Jehovah kept Jonah safe inside the fish for three days and then made the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land.

Since Jehovah had saved Jonah, did this mean that he didn’t have to go to Nineveh after all? No. Jehovah again told

“Jehovah . . . is patient with you because he does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.”—2 Peter 3:9

Jonah to go there. This time, Jonah obeyed. He went there and told those wicked people: ‘In 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed.’ Then something unexpected happened—the Ninevites listened and changed their ways. The king of Nineveh told his people: ‘Call out to God, and repent. Perhaps he will not destroy us.’ When Jehovah saw that the people repented, he did not destroy Nineveh.

Jonah was angry that the city was not destroyed. Just think: Jehovah had been patient and merciful with Jonah, but Jonah was not merciful with the people of Nineveh. Instead, he sat outside the city in the shade of a bottle-gourd plant and pouted. Then the plant died, and Jonah got angry. So Jehovah told him: ‘You care more about this plant than you do about the Ninevites. I showed them mercy, and they survived.’ What was the point? The people of Nineveh were more important than any plant.

Questions: What lessons did Jehovah teach Jonah? What can we learn from what happened to Jonah?

Jonah 1:1–4:11

55 Jehovah's Angel Protected Hezekiah

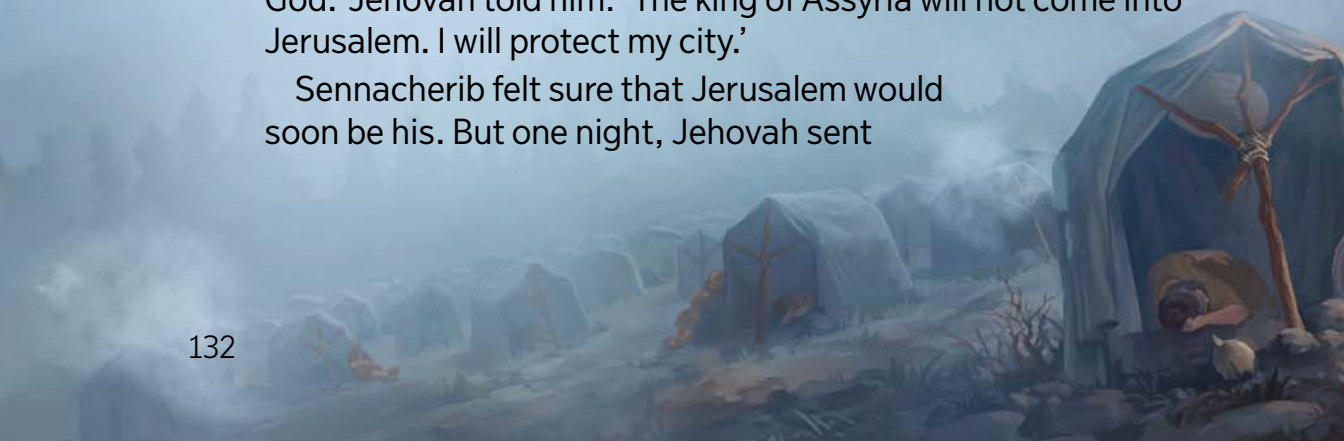
The Assyrian Empire had taken over the ten-tribe kingdom of Israel. Now Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, wanted to take over the two-tribe kingdom of Judah. He began taking the cities of Judah one by one. But the city he wanted most was Jerusalem. What Sennacherib did not know was that Jehovah was protecting Jerusalem.

Hezekiah, the king of Judah, paid Sennacherib a lot of money to leave Jerusalem alone. Although Sennacherib took the money, he still sent his powerful army to attack Jerusalem. The people in the city were scared because the Assyrians were getting closer and closer. Then Hezekiah told them: 'Don't be afraid. The Assyrians are strong, but Jehovah will make us even stronger than they are.'

Sennacherib sent his messenger, the Rabshakeh, to Jerusalem to make fun of the people. The Rabshakeh stood outside the city and shouted: 'Jehovah cannot help you. Don't let Hezekiah trick you. There is no god that can protect you from us.'

Hezekiah asked Jehovah what he should do. Jehovah answered: 'Don't be scared by what the Rabshakeh says. Sennacherib will not take Jerusalem.' Next, Hezekiah received some letters from Sennacherib. The letters said: 'Just give up. Jehovah can't save you.' Hezekiah prayed: 'Please, Jehovah, save us, so that everyone will know that you are the only true God.' Jehovah told him: 'The king of Assyria will not come into Jerusalem. I will protect my city.'

Sennacherib felt sure that Jerusalem would soon be his. But one night, Jehovah sent

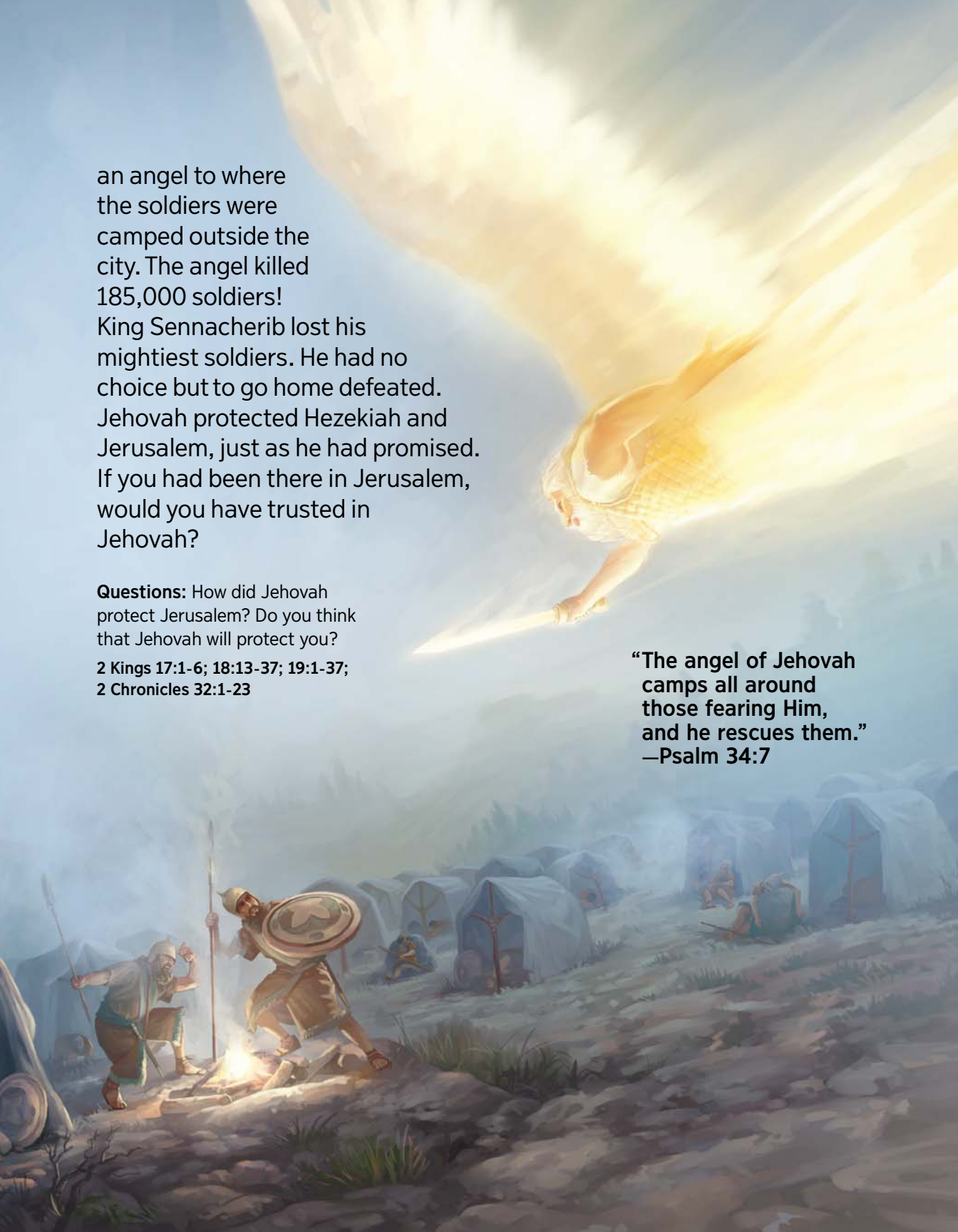


an angel to where the soldiers were camped outside the city. The angel killed 185,000 soldiers! King Sennacherib lost his mightiest soldiers. He had no choice but to go home defeated. Jehovah protected Hezekiah and Jerusalem, just as he had promised. If you had been there in Jerusalem, would you have trusted in Jehovah?

Questions: How did Jehovah protect Jerusalem? Do you think that Jehovah will protect you?

2 Kings 17:1-6; 18:13-37; 19:1-37; 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

"The angel of Jehovah camps all around those fearing Him, and he rescues them." —Psalm 34:7



56 Josiah Loved God's Law

Josiah became king of Judah when he was eight years old. In those days, the people were practicing magic and worshipping idols. When Josiah was 16 years old, he tried to learn how to worship Jehovah in the right way. When he was 20 years old, he started to destroy the idols and altars in all the land. And when Josiah was 26 years old, he arranged for Jehovah's temple to be repaired.

In the temple, the high priest, Hilkiah, found the scroll of Jehovah's Law—maybe the very scroll that had been written by Moses. The king's secretary Shaphan brought the scroll to Josiah and began to read the Law out loud. As Josiah listened, he realized that the people had been disobeying Jehovah for many years. King Josiah said to Hilkiah: 'Jehovah is very angry with us. Go and speak to him. Jehovah will tell us what we should do.' Jehovah answered through the prophetess Huldah: 'The people of Judah have left me. They will be punished but not while Josiah is king, because he has humbled himself.'

When King Josiah heard the message, he went to the temple and called the people of Judah together. Then he read Jehovah's Law out loud to the whole nation. Josiah and the people promised to obey Jehovah with all their hearts.

"Your word is a lamp to my foot, and a light for my path."—Psalm 119:105

The nation of Judah had not celebrated the Passover for many years. But when Josiah read in the Law that the Passover should be celebrated every year, he told the nation: 'We will hold a Passover to Jehovah.' Then Josiah prepared to make many sacrifices and arranged to have a chorus of singers at the temple. Then the nation held the Passover, followed by the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which lasted for seven days. There had not been a Passover like it since the days of Samuel. Josiah really loved God's Law. Do you enjoy learning about Jehovah?

Questions: How did King Josiah react when he heard God's Law? How did Jehovah feel about Josiah?

2 Kings 21:26; 22:1–23:30; 2 Chronicles 34:1–35:25

10

Jehovah is King over all. He has always been in control, and he will always be in control. For example, he rescued Jeremiah from a pit of death. He saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from a fiery furnace and Daniel from the mouths of lions. Jehovah protected Esther so that she could save her entire nation. He will not allow wickedness to go on forever. The prophecies of the great image and the massive tree guarantee that Jehovah's Kingdom will soon remove all wickedness and rule the earth.

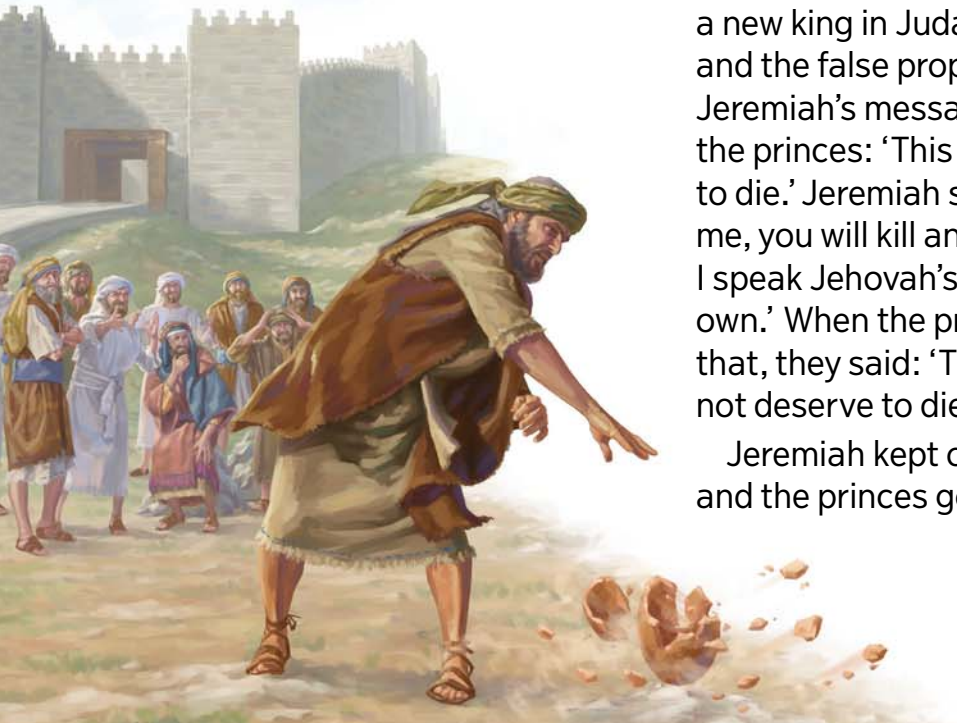
KEY LESSONS

- Jehovah's Kingdom is far more powerful than any human government
- Like Esther and Daniel, we must always stand up for what is right, no matter where we are
- Rely completely on Jehovah when facing desperate situations, just as Jeremiah and Nehemiah did

57 Jehovah Sends Jeremiah to Preach

Jehovah chose Jeremiah to be a prophet to the people of Judah. He told him to preach to the people and warn them that they needed to stop doing bad things. Jeremiah said: ‘But Jehovah, I am only a boy. I don’t know how to speak to the people.’ Jehovah told him: ‘Do not be afraid. I will tell you what to say. I will help you.’

Jehovah told Jeremiah to gather the elders of the people, smash a clay jar in front of them, and say: ‘Jerusalem will be smashed just like this.’ When Jeremiah did what Jehovah said, the elders got very angry. A priest named Pashhur beat Jeremiah and put him in wooden stocks. All night long, Jeremiah could not move. Pashhur let him out the next morning. Jeremiah said: ‘I can’t take this anymore. I’m going to stop preaching.’ But did he really give up? No. When Jeremiah thought about it some more, he said: ‘Jehovah’s message is like a fire inside of me. I cannot stop preaching.’ Jeremiah continued to warn the people.



Years passed, and there was a new king in Judah. The priests and the false prophets hated Jeremiah’s message. They told the princes: ‘This man deserves to die.’ Jeremiah said: ‘If you kill me, you will kill an innocent man. I speak Jehovah’s words, not my own.’ When the princes heard that, they said: ‘This man does not deserve to die.’

Jeremiah kept on preaching, and the princes got very angry.

"You will be hated by all people on account of my name, but the one who has endured to the end will be saved." —Matthew 10:22

They asked the king to put Jeremiah to death. The king said that they could do whatever they wanted with Jeremiah. They took Jeremiah and threw him into a deep, muddy well, hoping that he would die there. Jeremiah began to sink into the mud.

Then a court official named Ebed-melech told the king: 'The princes have thrown Jeremiah into a well! If we leave him there, he will die.' The king commanded Ebed-melech to take 30 men with him and pull Jeremiah out of the well. Shouldn't we be like Jeremiah, who did not allow anything to stop him from preaching?

Questions: Why did Jeremiah obey Jehovah, even when he was young? Who tried to stop Jeremiah from preaching?

Jeremiah 1:1-19; 19:1-11; 20:1-13; 25:8-11; 26:7-16; 38:1-13

58 Jerusalem Is Destroyed

Again and again, the people of Judah left Jehovah and worshipped false gods. For many years, Jehovah kept trying to help them. He sent many prophets to warn them, but they did not listen. Instead, they made fun of the prophets. How did Jehovah put an end to their idolatry?

The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, was conquering one nation after another. The first time he conquered Jerusalem, he captured King Jehoiachin, the princes, the warriors, and the craftsmen, and he took them all to Babylon. He also took all the treasures from Jehovah's temple. Then Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah king of Judah.

At first, Zedekiah obeyed Nebuchadnezzar. But the nearby nations and the false prophets advised Zedekiah to rebel against Babylon. Jeremiah warned him: 'If you rebel, there will be murder, famine, and disease in Judah.'

After ruling for eight years, Zedekiah decided to rebel against Babylon. He asked the Egyptian army to help him. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent his army to attack Jerusalem, and they camped around the city. Jeremiah told Zedekiah: 'Jehovah says that if you surrender to Babylon, both you and the city will survive. But if you don't, the Babylonians will burn Jerusalem down and take you as prisoner.' Zedekiah said: 'I won't surrender!'

“Jehovah God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments.”—Revelation 16:7

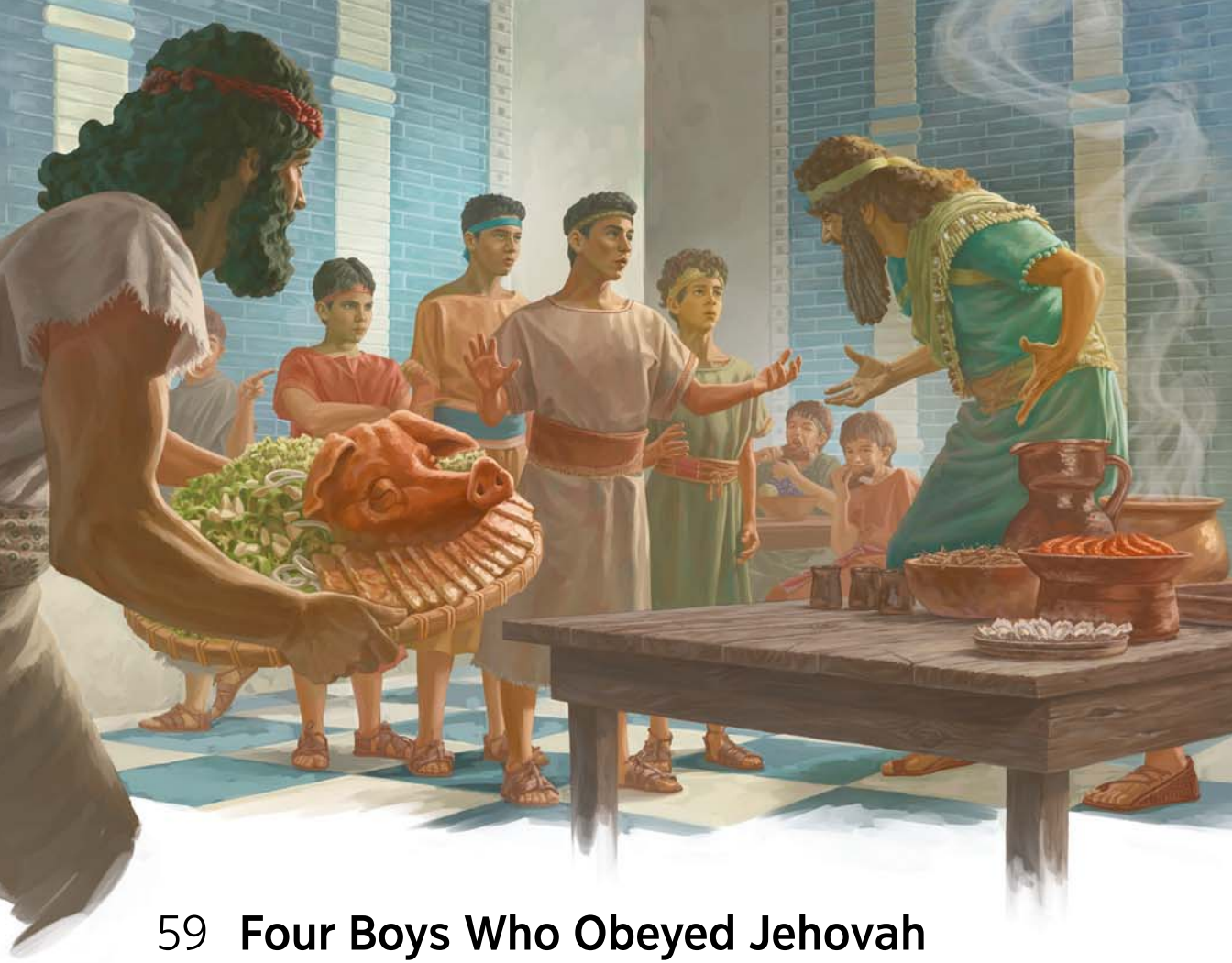
A year and a half later, the Babylonian army broke through the walls of Jerusalem and set the city on fire. They burned down the temple, killed many people, and took thousands as prisoners.

Zedekiah escaped from Jerusalem, but the Babylonians chased after him. They captured him near Jericho and brought him to Nebuchadnezzar. The king of Babylon made Zedekiah watch as his own sons were executed. Then Nebuchadnezzar blinded Zedekiah and put him in prison, where he later died. But Jehovah promised the people of Judah: ‘After 70 years, I will bring you home to Jerusalem.’

What would happen to the young people who had been taken as prisoners to Babylon? Would they remain loyal to Jehovah?

Questions: Who was Nebuchadnezzar? What did he do to Jerusalem? Who was Zedekiah?

2 Kings 24:1, 2, 8-20; 25:1-24; 2 Chronicles 36:6-21; Jeremiah 27:12-14; 29:10, 11; 38:14-23; 39:1-9; Ezekiel 21:27



59 Four Boys Who Obeyed Jehovah

When Nebuchadnezzar took the princes of Judah to Babylon, he put a court official named Ashpenaz in charge of them. Nebuchadnezzar told Ashpenaz to find the healthiest and the smartest young boys among them. These young boys would be trained for three years. The training would prepare them to be important officials in Babylon. The boys had to learn to read, write, and speak the Akkadian language of Babylon. They were also expected to eat the same kind of food that the king and his court ate. Four of these boys were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Ashpenaz gave them new Babylonian names: Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and

"Never let anyone look down on your youth. Instead, become an example to the faithful ones in speaking, in conduct, in love, in faith, in chasteness."—1 Timothy 4:12

Abednego. Would this education cause them to stop serving Jehovah?

These four boys were determined to obey Jehovah. They knew that they should not eat the king's food because Jehovah's Law said that some of it was unclean. So they said to Ashpenaz: 'Please do not make us eat the king's food.' Ashpenaz told them: 'If you don't eat and the king sees you looking sick, he will kill me!'

Daniel had an idea. He said to their guardian: 'Please give us only vegetables and water for ten days. Then compare us with the boys who eat the king's food.' The guardian agreed.

After the ten-day test, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than all the other boys. Jehovah was pleased that they had obeyed him. He even gave Daniel the wisdom to understand visions and dreams.

When the training was finished, Ashpenaz brought the boys to Nebuchadnezzar. The king spoke with them and saw that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were more intelligent and alert than all the other boys. He chose these four to work in his royal court. The king would often ask them for advice on important matters. Jehovah had made them wiser than all the king's wise men and magicians.

Even though they were in a foreign land, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah did not forget that they were Jehovah's people. Will you too always remember Jehovah, even when your parents are not with you?

Questions: Why did Daniel and his three friends obey Jehovah? How did Jehovah help them?

Daniel 1:1-21

60 A Kingdom That Will Last Forever

One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream. It bothered him so much that he could not sleep. He called his magicians in and said to them: ‘Explain my dream to me.’ They said: ‘Tell us what you dreamed, O king.’ But Nebuchadnezzar told them: ‘No! You tell me what I dreamed, or I will kill you.’ Again they said to him: ‘Tell us what you dreamed, and then we will explain it.’ He said: ‘All of you are trying to trick me. Tell me what I dreamed!’ They told the king: ‘There is no man alive who can do that. What you ask is impossible.’

Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he ordered that all the wise men in the land be killed. That included Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel asked the king for some time. Then he and his friends prayed to Jehovah and asked him to help them. What did Jehovah do?

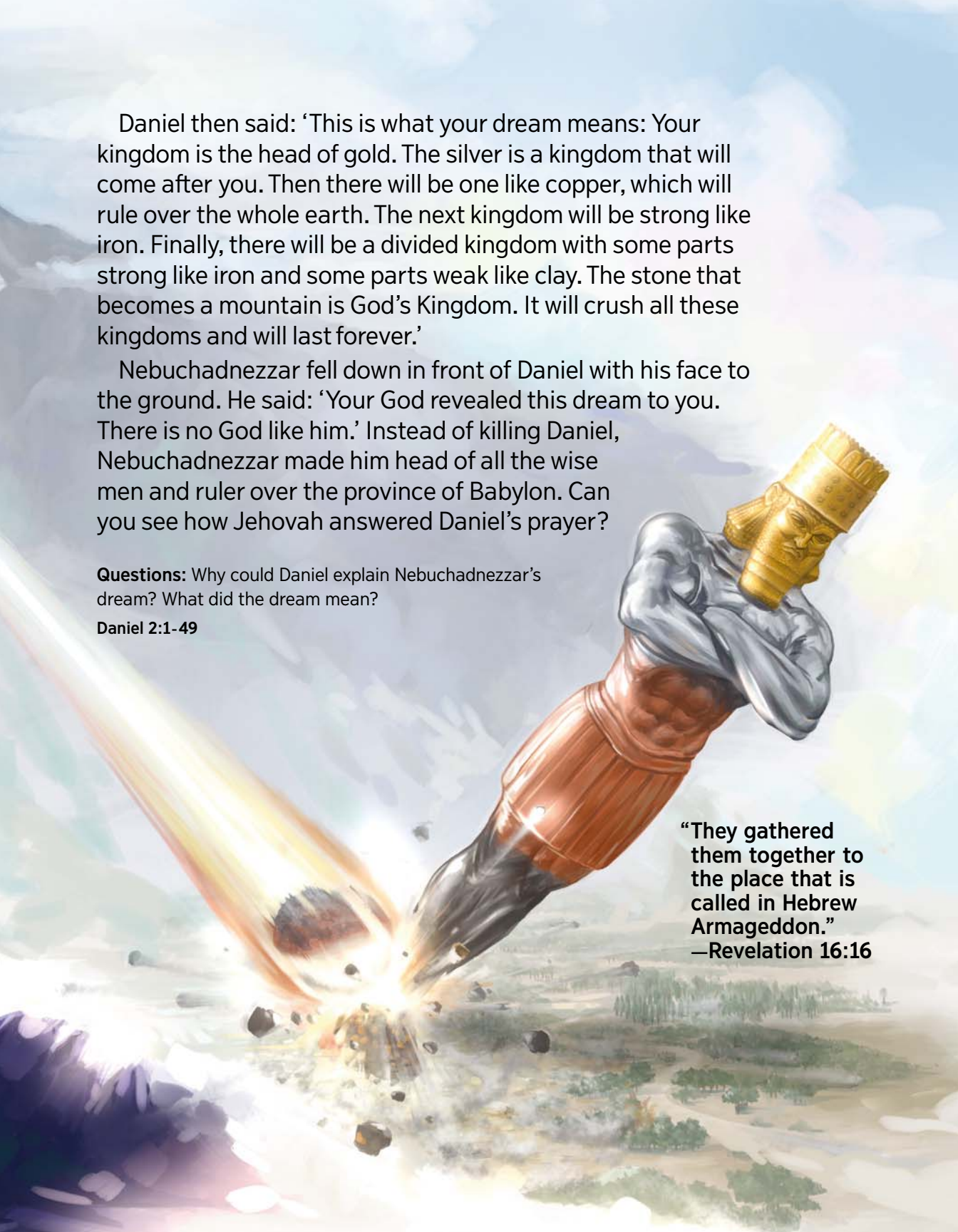
In a vision, Jehovah showed Nebuchadnezzar’s dream to Daniel and gave him its meaning. The next day, Daniel went to the king’s servant and said: ‘Don’t kill any of the wise men. I can explain the king’s dream.’ The servant took Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel told the king: ‘God has revealed the future to you. This is your dream: You saw a huge statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, stomach and thighs of copper, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay. Then a stone was cut from a mountain, and it struck the feet of the statue. The statue was crushed into powder and blew away in the wind. The stone became a large mountain, and it filled the earth.’

Daniel then said: ‘This is what your dream means: Your kingdom is the head of gold. The silver is a kingdom that will come after you. Then there will be one like copper, which will rule over the whole earth. The next kingdom will be strong like iron. Finally, there will be a divided kingdom with some parts strong like iron and some parts weak like clay. The stone that becomes a mountain is God’s Kingdom. It will crush all these kingdoms and will last forever.’

Nebuchadnezzar fell down in front of Daniel with his face to the ground. He said: ‘Your God revealed this dream to you. There is no God like him.’ Instead of killing Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar made him head of all the wise men and ruler over the province of Babylon. Can you see how Jehovah answered Daniel’s prayer?

Questions: Why could Daniel explain Nebuchadnezzar’s dream? What did the dream mean?

Daniel 2:1-49



“They gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Armageddon.” —Revelation 16:16

61 They Did Not Bow Down

Sometime after King Nebuchadnezzar had the dream about the statue, he made a huge image out of gold. He set it up on the plain of Dura and called the most important people in the land, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to gather in front of it. The king commanded: ‘As soon as you hear the sound of trumpets, harps, and bagpipes, bow down to the statue! Anyone who will not bow down will be thrown into a burning furnace.’ Would the three Hebrews bow down to the statue, or would they worship only Jehovah?

Then the king commanded that the music be played. Everyone fell down and worshipped the statue except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Some of the men noticed this and told the king: ‘Those three Hebrews refused to worship your statue.’ Nebuchadnezzar sent for them and said: ‘I’m going to give you another chance to worship the statue. If you do not, I will throw you into the furnace. There is no god who will be able to save you from me.’ They answered: ‘We do not need another chance. Our God can save us. But even if he does not, O king, we will not worship the statue.’

“It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.” —Matthew 4:10

Nebuchadnezzar got very angry. He told his men: ‘Make the fire in the furnace seven times hotter than usual!’ Then he commanded his soldiers:

‘Tie up these men, and throw them in!’ The furnace was so hot that when the soldiers got close to it, they died instantly. The three Hebrews fell into the fire. But when Nebuchadnezzar looked inside, he saw that there were four men walking around in the furnace instead of three. He became frightened and asked his officials: ‘Didn’t we throw three men into the fire? I see four, and one of them looks like an angel!’

Nebuchadnezzar went closer to the furnace and called out: ‘Come out, you servants of the Most High God!’ Everyone was amazed to see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walk out of the fire unharmed. Their skin, their hair, and their clothing had not been burned, and they did not even smell of fire.

Nebuchadnezzar said: ‘The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is great. He sent his angel and saved them. There is no god like theirs.’

Like the three Hebrews, are you determined to be loyal to Jehovah no matter what happens?

Questions: What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do? How did Jehovah save them?

Daniel 3:1-30

62 A Kingdom Like a Big Tree

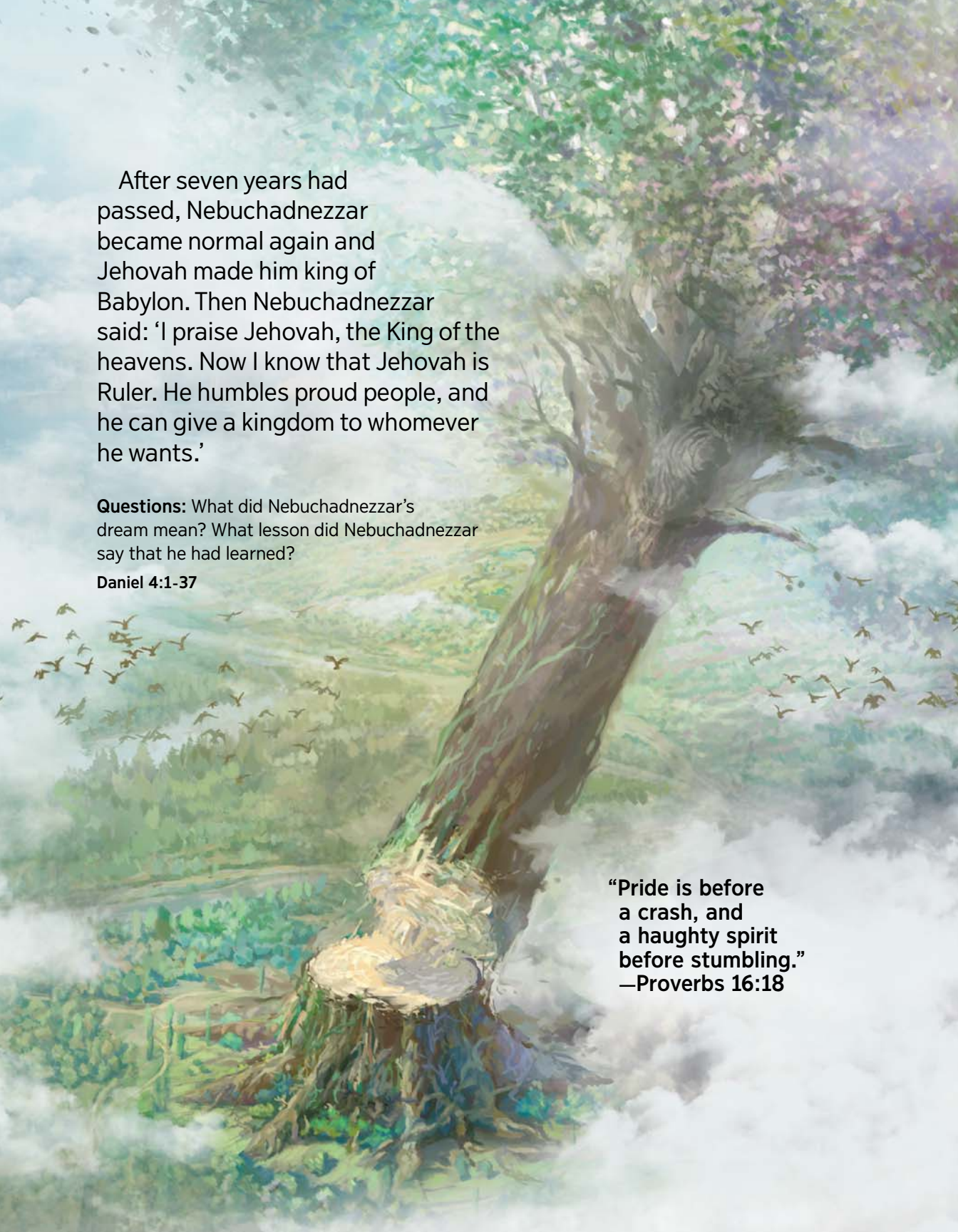
One night, Nebuchadnezzar had a frightening dream. He called his wise men in to tell him what it meant. But none of them could explain his dream. Finally, the king spoke to Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel: ‘In my dream, I saw a tree. It grew so tall that it reached the sky. It could be seen from anywhere on earth. It had beautiful leaves and lots of fruit. Animals rested in its shade, and birds made their nests in its branches. Then an angel came down from heaven. He called out: “Chop the tree down, and cut off its branches. But leave the stump with its roots in the ground, and put bands of iron and copper around it. The heart of the tree will change from that of a human to that of a beast, and seven times will pass over it. All people will learn that God is Ruler and that he can give a kingdom to whomever he wants.” ’

Jehovah revealed to Daniel what the dream meant. When Daniel understood the dream, he became frightened. He said: ‘O king, I wish that this dream was about your enemies, but it is about you. The big tree that was chopped down is you. You will lose your kingdom, and you will eat grass in the field just like a wild animal. But because the angel said to leave the stump with its roots, you will become king again.’

A year later, Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the flat roof of his palace, admiring Babylon. He said: ‘Look at this magnificent city I have built. See how great I am!’ As he was speaking, a voice from heaven said: ‘Nebuchadnezzar! Now you have lost your kingdom.’

At that moment, Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind and became like a wild animal. He was forced to leave his palace and live with the wild animals in the field. Nebuchadnezzar’s hair grew long like an eagle’s feathers, and his nails were like a bird’s claws.



After seven years had passed, Nebuchadnezzar became normal again and Jehovah made him king of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar said: ‘I praise Jehovah, the King of the heavens. Now I know that Jehovah is Ruler. He humbles proud people, and he can give a kingdom to whomever he wants.’

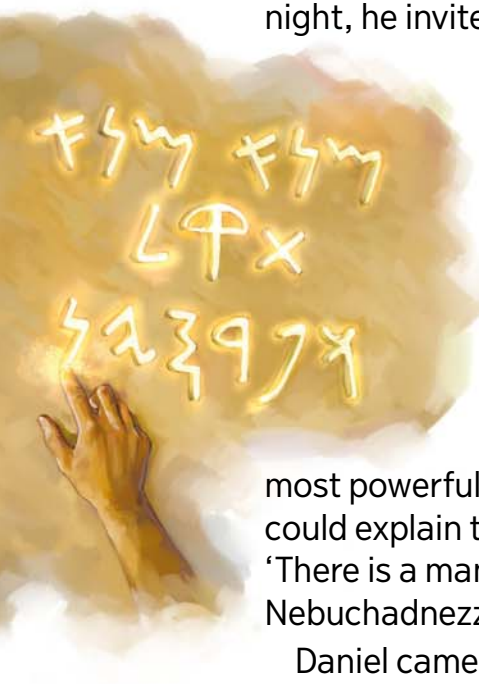
Questions: What did Nebuchadnezzar’s dream mean? What lesson did Nebuchadnezzar say that he had learned?

Daniel 4:1-37

“Pride is before a crash, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.” —Proverbs 16:18

63 The Writing on the Wall

In time, Belshazzar became the king of Babylon. One night, he invited a thousand of the most important people in the land to a feast. He ordered his servants to bring out the gold cups that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jehovah's temple. Belshazzar and his guests drank from the cups and praised their gods. Suddenly, a man's hand appeared and began to write mysterious words on the wall of the dining hall.

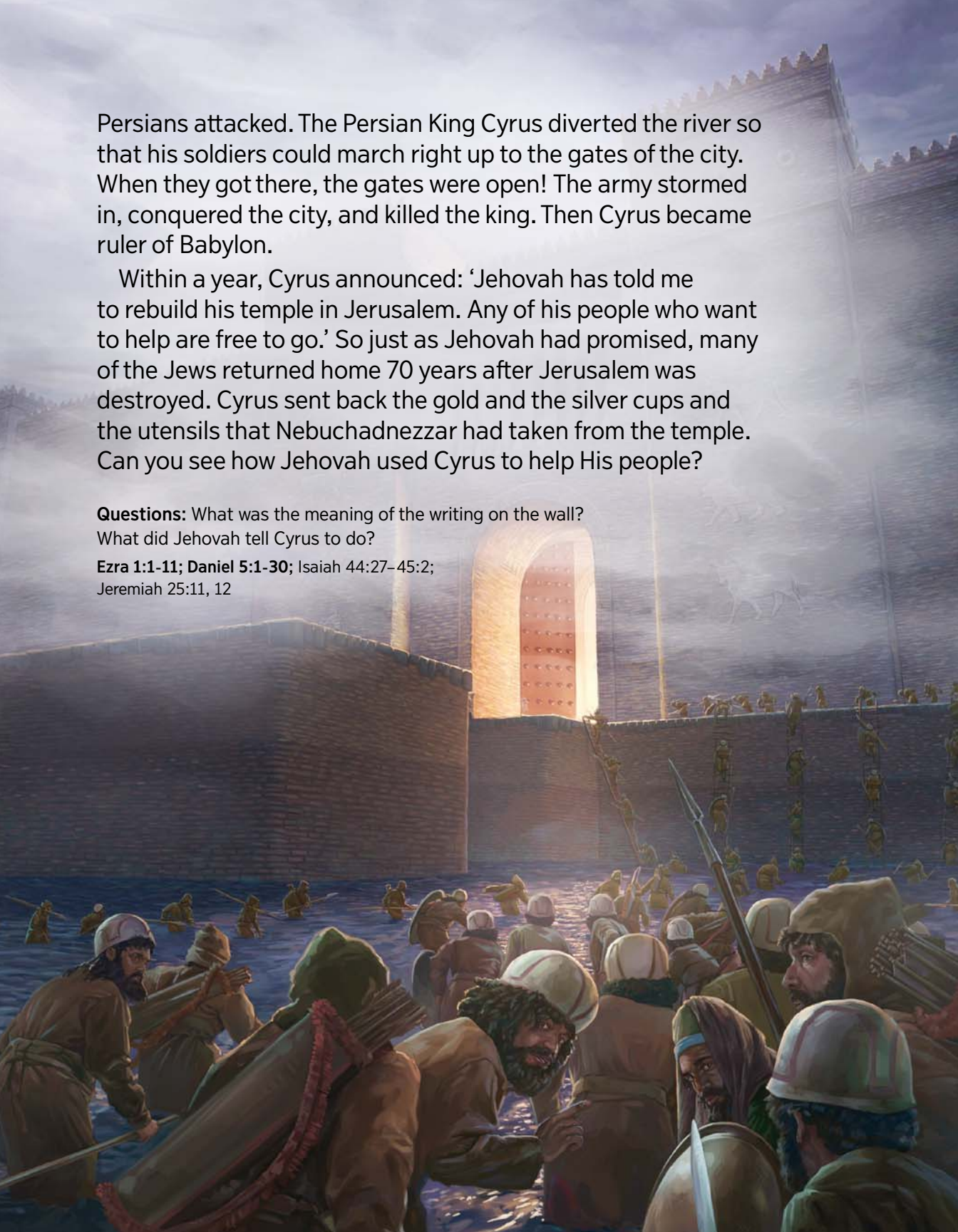


Belshazzar was terrified. He called in his magicians and promised them: 'If anyone can explain these words, I will make him the third most powerful man in Babylon.' They tried, but none of them could explain the words. The queen then came in and said: 'There is a man named Daniel who used to explain things to Nebuchadnezzar. He can explain these words to you.'

Daniel came in to the king. Belshazzar said to him: 'If you can read and explain these words, I will give you a gold necklace and make you the third most powerful man in Babylon.' Daniel said: 'I don't want your gifts, but I will tell you what these words mean. Your father Nebuchadnezzar was proud, and Jehovah humbled him. You know everything that happened to him, but you disrespected Jehovah by drinking wine out of the gold cups from His temple. So God has written these words: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. The words mean that the Medes and the Persians will conquer Babylon, and you will not be king anymore.'

"She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen, and she has become a dwelling place of demons." —Revelation 18:2

It seemed as if nobody could conquer Babylon. This city was protected by thick walls and a deep river. But that very night, the Medes and the



Persians attacked. The Persian King Cyrus diverted the river so that his soldiers could march right up to the gates of the city. When they got there, the gates were open! The army stormed in, conquered the city, and killed the king. Then Cyrus became ruler of Babylon.

Within a year, Cyrus announced: ‘Jehovah has told me to rebuild his temple in Jerusalem. Any of his people who want to help are free to go.’ So just as Jehovah had promised, many of the Jews returned home 70 years after Jerusalem was destroyed. Cyrus sent back the gold and the silver cups and the utensils that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple. Can you see how Jehovah used Cyrus to help His people?

Questions: What was the meaning of the writing on the wall? What did Jehovah tell Cyrus to do?

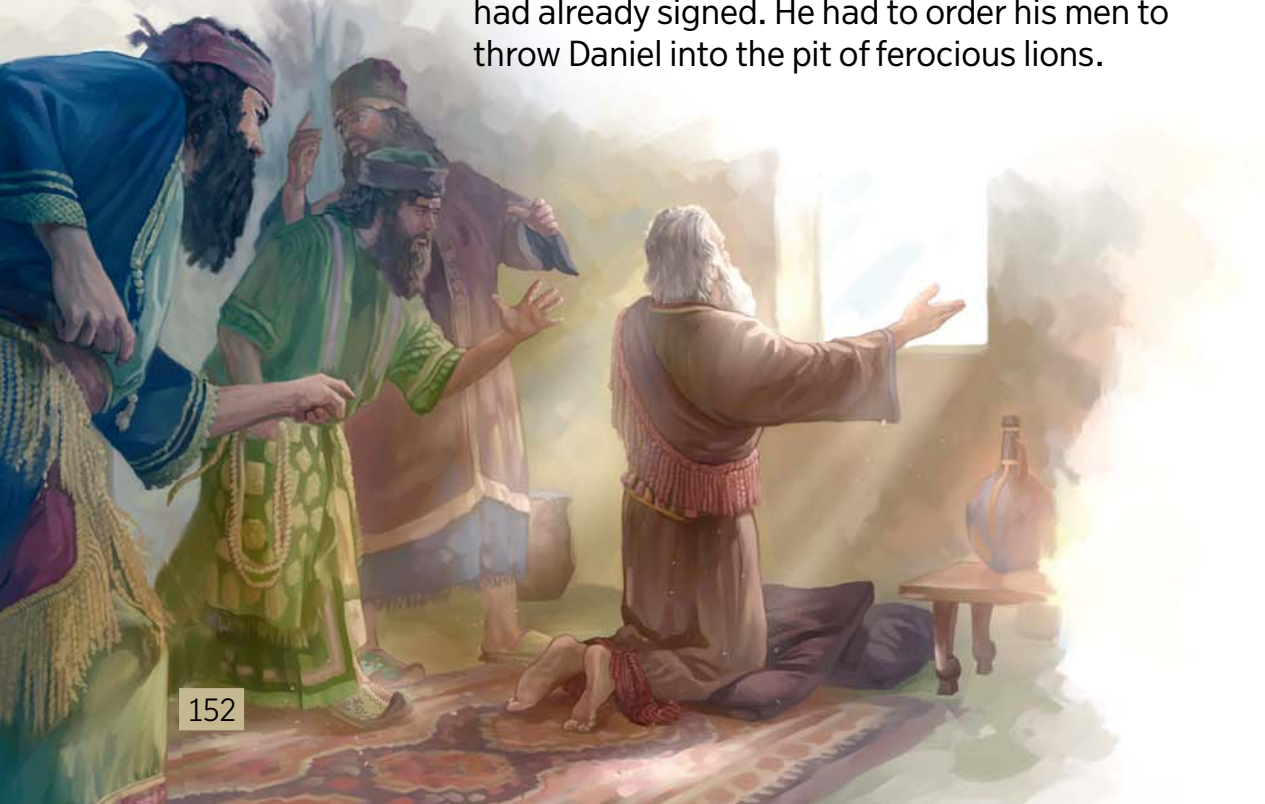
Ezra 1:1-11; Daniel 5:1-30; Isaiah 44:27–45:2; Jeremiah 25:11, 12

64 Daniel in the Lions' Pit

Another king of Babylon was Darius the Mede. Darius saw that Daniel was special. He put Daniel in charge of the most important men in the land. These men were jealous of Daniel and wanted to get rid of him. They knew that Daniel prayed to Jehovah three times every day, so they told Darius: 'O king, there should be a law that everyone should pray to you alone. Anyone who disobeys the law should be thrown into a pit full of lions.' Darius liked the idea, and he signed the law.

As soon as Daniel heard about the new law, he went to his house. In front of an open window, he got down on his knees and prayed to Jehovah. The jealous men burst into his house and caught him praying. They ran to Darius and said: 'Daniel is disobeying you. He prays to his God three times every day.'

Darius liked Daniel and didn't want him to die. All day long he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. But not even the king could change a law that he had already signed. He had to order his men to throw Daniel into the pit of ferocious lions.



That night, Darius was so worried about Daniel that he could not sleep. In the morning, he ran to the pit and called to Daniel: ‘Did your God save you?’

Darius heard a voice. It was Daniel! He called to Darius: ‘Jehovah’s angel shut the lions’ mouths. They did not hurt me at all.’ Darius was so happy! He ordered that Daniel be lifted out of the pit. Daniel did not have a scratch on him. Then the king commanded: ‘Throw the men who accused Daniel into the pit.’ When those men were thrown into the pit, the lions devoured them.

Darius sent out this order to his people: ‘Everyone must fear Daniel’s God. He rescued Daniel from the lions.’

Do you pray to Jehovah every day, just like Daniel?

“Jehovah knows how to rescue people of godly devotion out of trial.” —2 Peter 2:9

Questions: What did Daniel do three times every day? How did Jehovah rescue Daniel?

Daniel 6:1-28

65 Esther Saves Her People

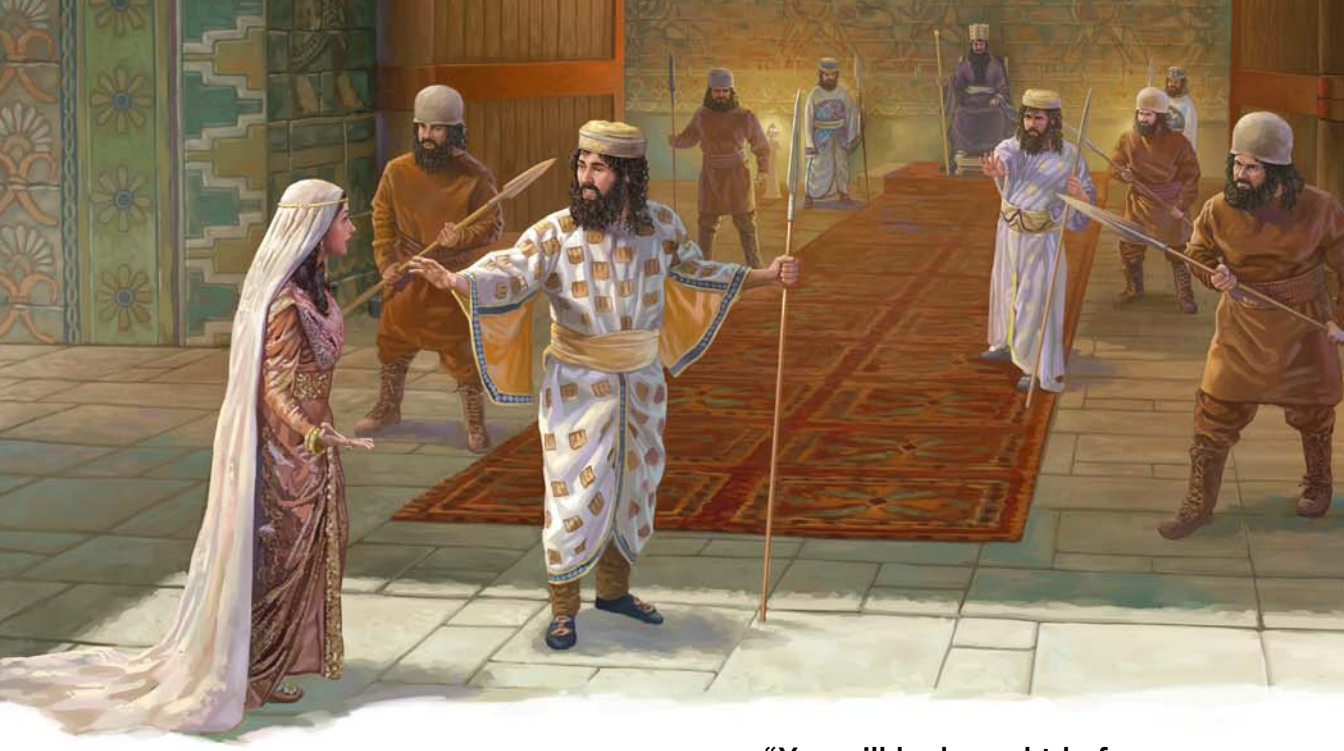
Esther was a Jewish girl who lived in the Persian city of Shushan. Many years before, her family had been taken from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. She was raised by her cousin Mordecai, a servant of King Ahasuerus of Persia.

King Ahasuerus wanted a new queen. His servants brought him the most beautiful women in the land, including Esther. Out of all the women, the king chose Esther to be queen. Mordecai told Esther not to reveal that she was Jewish.

A proud man named Haman was head of all the princes. He wanted everyone to bow down to him. Mordecai refused to do so, and Haman was so angry that he wanted to kill him. When Haman found out that Mordecai was a Jew, he formed a plan to kill all the Jews in the land. He told the king: 'The Jews are dangerous; you need to get rid of them.' Ahasuerus said: 'Do whatever you need to do,' and gave him the power to make a law. Haman made a law that told the people to kill all the Jews on the 13th day of the month of Adar. Jehovah was watching.

Esther didn't know about the law. So Mordecai sent her a copy of it and told her: 'Go and talk to the king.' Esther said: 'Anyone who goes to the king without being invited will be killed. The king has not invited me for 30 days! But I will go. If he holds out his scepter, I will live. If he doesn't, I will die.'

Esther went to the king's courtyard. When the king saw her, he held out his scepter. She went to him, and he asked: 'What can I do for you, Esther?' She said: 'I want to invite you and



"You will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a witness to them and the nations."—Matthew 10:18

Haman to a feast.' At the feast, Esther invited them to a second feast. During the second feast, the king again asked: 'What can I do for you?' She said: 'Someone is going to kill me and my people. Please save us.' The king asked: 'Who wants to kill you?' She said: 'This bad man Haman.' Ahasuerus was so angry that he had Haman killed right away.

But nobody could cancel Haman's law, not even the king. So the king made Mordecai head of the princes and gave him the power to make a new law. Mordecai made a law that allowed the Jews to defend themselves when they were attacked. On the 13th day of Adar, the Jews defeated their enemies. From then on, they celebrated this victory every year.

Questions: What was the plan against the Jews? How did Esther show faith in Jehovah?

Esther 2:5-20; 3:1–5:8; 7:1–8:14; 9:1-28

66 Ezra Taught God's Law

It had been about 70 years since most of the Israelites had gone back to Jerusalem, but some were still living in different parts of the Persian Empire. One of them was a priest named Ezra, who taught Jehovah's Law. Ezra learned that the people in Jerusalem were not following the Law, and he wanted to go and help them. Persian King Artaxerxes told him: 'God made you wise so that you can teach his Law. Go, and take any who want to go with you.' Ezra met with all who wanted to return to Jerusalem. They prayed to Jehovah to keep them safe on the long journey, and then they set off.

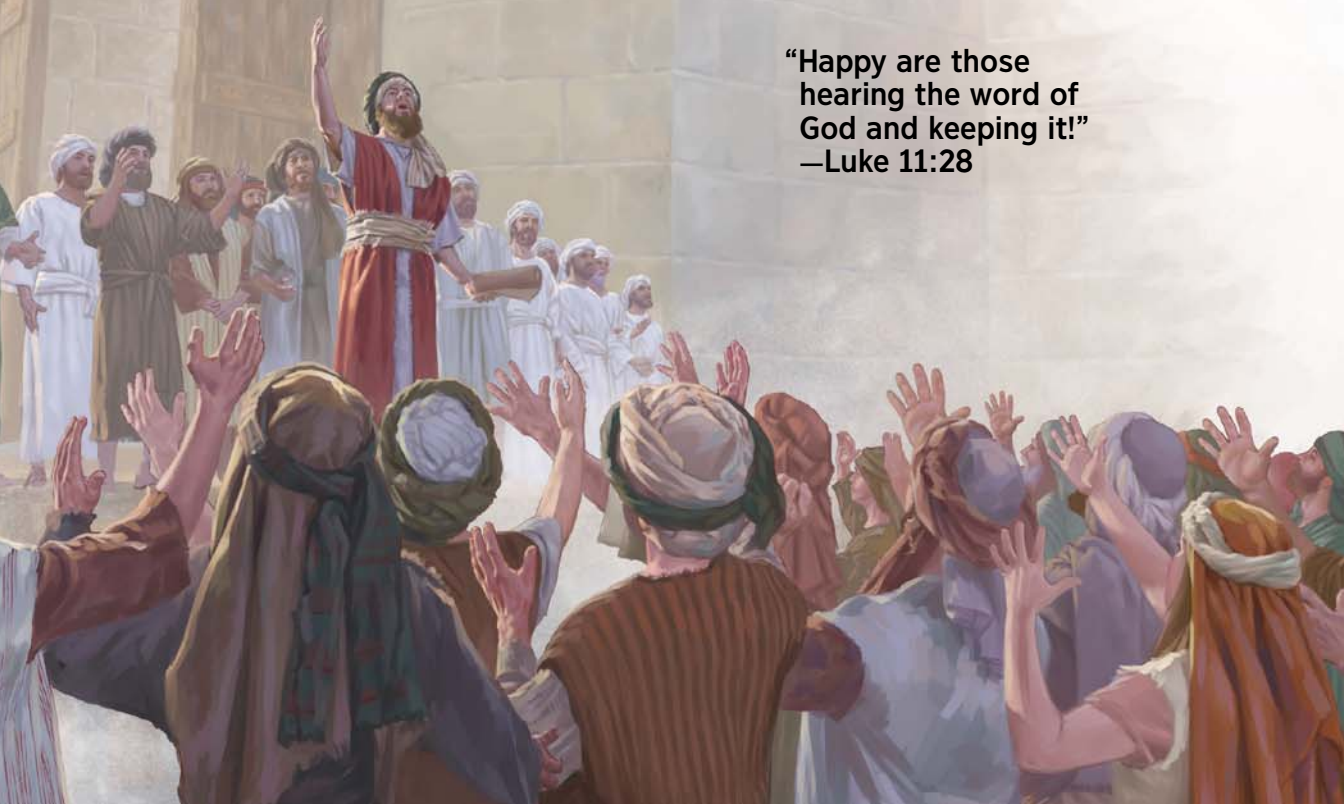
Four months later, they arrived at Jerusalem. The princes there told Ezra: 'The Israelites have disobeyed Jehovah and married women who worship false gods.' What did Ezra do? In front of the people, Ezra got down on his knees and prayed: 'Jehovah, you have done so much for us, but we have sinned against you.' The people repented, but they were still doing things that were not right. Ezra chose elders and judges to look into these matters. Over the next three months, those who did not worship Jehovah were sent away.

Twelve years went by. In the meantime, the walls around Jerusalem were rebuilt. So Ezra gathered the people in the public square to read God's Law to them. When Ezra opened the book, the people stood up. He praised Jehovah, and they raised their hands in agreement. Then Ezra read and explained the Law, and the people listened carefully. They admitted that they had strayed from Jehovah again, and they wept. The next day, Ezra read more of the Law to them. They learned that soon they should celebrate the Festival of Booths. Right away, they began to prepare for the festival.

For the seven days of the festival, the people rejoiced and thanked Jehovah for a good harvest. There had not been a Festival of Booths like it since the days of Joshua. After the festival, the people gathered and prayed: ‘Jehovah, you saved us from slavery, fed us in the desert, and gave us this beautiful land. But over and over, we disobeyed you. You sent prophets to warn us, but we did not listen. Still, you were patient. You kept your promise to Abraham. Now we promise that we will obey you.’ They wrote down their promise, and the princes, Levites, and priests put their seal on it.

Questions: What did Ezra teach the Israelites who were gathered in Jerusalem? What did the people promise to do?

Ezra 7:1-28; 8:21-23, 31, 32; 9:1–10:19; Nehemiah 8:1-18; 9:1-38



“Happy are those hearing the word of God and keeping it!” —Luke 11:28

67 The Walls of Jerusalem

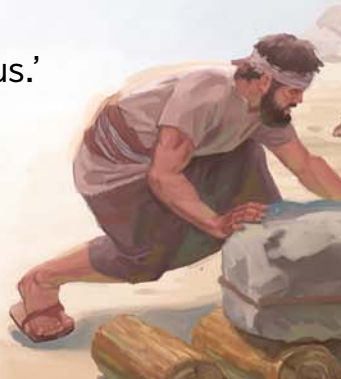
Let's go back a few years. Nehemiah, a servant of King Artaxerxes, was an Israelite who lived in the Persian city of Shushan. Nehemiah's brother came from Judah with bad news: 'The people who returned to Jerusalem are not safe. The city walls and gates that the Babylonians destroyed have never been rebuilt.' Nehemiah was upset. He wanted to go to Jerusalem to help, so he prayed that the king would let him go.

Later, the king noticed that Nehemiah was looking sad. He said: 'I've never seen you like this. What's wrong?' Nehemiah said: 'Why should I not look sad when my city, Jerusalem, is in ruins?' The king asked: 'What do you want me to do for you?' Immediately, Nehemiah prayed silently. Then he said: 'Please, let me go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls.' King Artaxerxes told Nehemiah that he could go, and the king made sure that he would be safe on his long journey. He also made Nehemiah governor of Judah and gave him wood for the city gates.

When Nehemiah arrived at Jerusalem, he inspected the city walls. Then he gathered the priests and rulers and told them: 'This is terrible. We need to get to work.' The people agreed, and they began to rebuild the walls.

But some of the Israelite's enemies made fun of them, and said: 'A fox could knock down the wall you're building.' The workers ignored the insults and kept on building. The wall got higher and stronger.

The enemies decided to come from different directions and make a surprise attack on Jerusalem. When the Jews heard about the plan, they were frightened. But Nehemiah said: 'Don't be afraid. Jehovah is with us.' He posted guards to protect the workers, and the enemies were not able to attack.

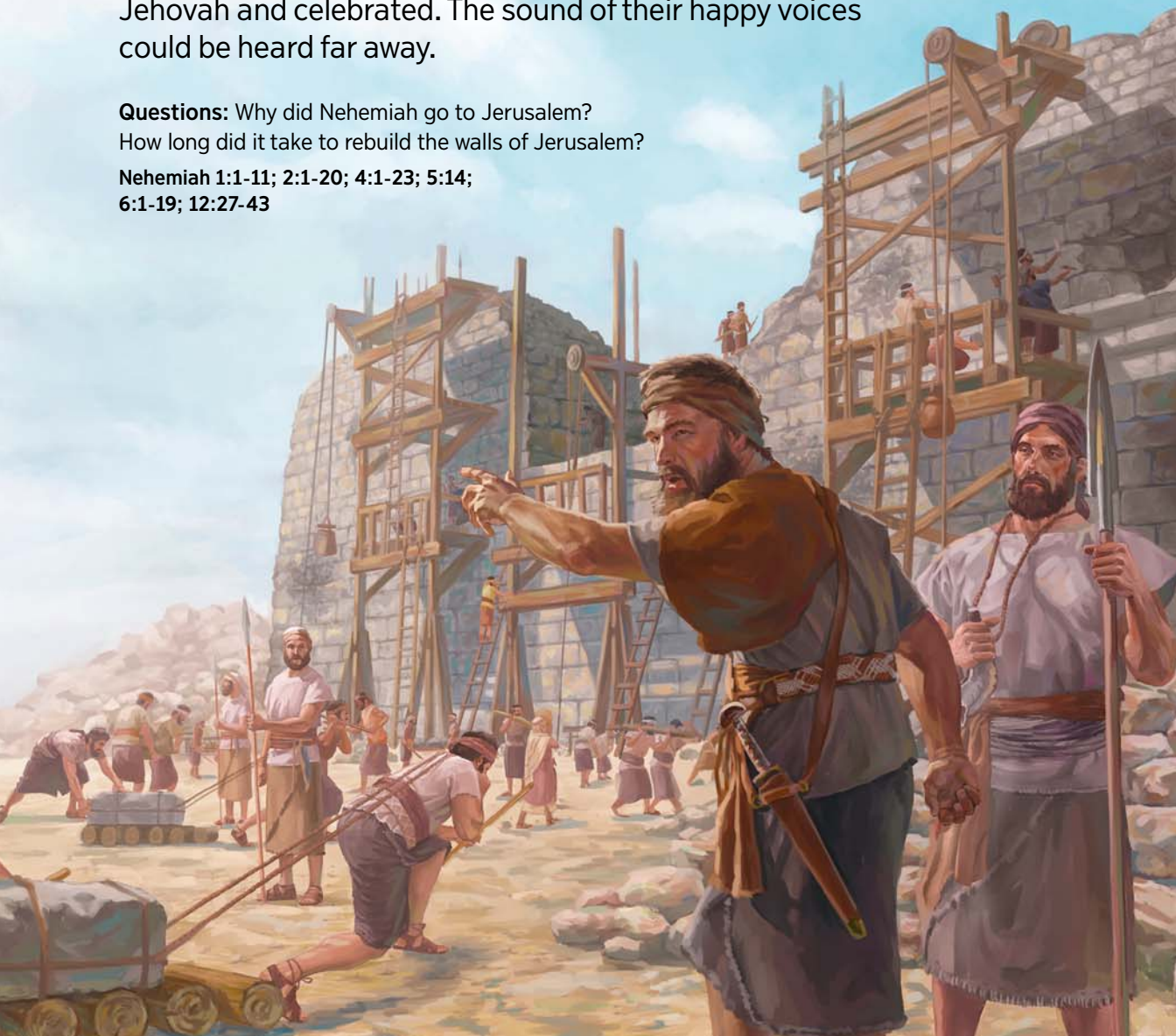


"No weapon formed against you will have any success."—Isaiah 54:17

In just 52 days, the walls and the gates were completed. Nehemiah brought all the Levites to Jerusalem for the inauguration. He organized them into two groups of singers. They went up on the wall by the stairs at the Fountain Gate and then marched in opposite directions around the city. They played trumpets, cymbals, and harps and sang to Jehovah. Ezra went with one group, and Nehemiah with the other, until they met up at the temple. All the people—men, women, and children—offered sacrifices to Jehovah and celebrated. The sound of their happy voices could be heard far away.

Questions: Why did Nehemiah go to Jerusalem? How long did it take to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?

Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:1-20; 4:1-23; 5:14; 6:1-19; 12:27-43



11

This section introduces the Christian Greek Scriptures. Jesus was born into a humble family who lived in a small town. He worked with his father, a carpenter. Jesus was the one who would save mankind. Jehovah had selected him as King of the Kingdom of the heavens. If you are a parent, help your child to appreciate how carefully Jehovah selected the family and environment in which Jesus would grow up. Consider how Jehovah protected Jesus from being murdered by Herod and how nothing can stop Jehovah's purpose. Learn how Jehovah assigned John to prepare the way for Jesus. Emphasize how Jesus demonstrated that even from a young age, he loved Jehovah's wisdom.

KEY LESSONS

- Always be loyal to Jehovah's arrangement
- Jesus, the powerful Son of God, was willing to be born on earth as a human baby
- John the Baptist announced the arrival of the Messiah

68 Elizabeth Has a Baby

Over 400 years after the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, a priest named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, lived near the city. They had been married for many years but did not have any children. One day as Zechariah offered incense in the temple sanctuary, the angel Gabriel appeared. Zechariah was frightened, but Gabriel said: 'Don't be afraid. I bring you good news from Jehovah. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son and his name will be John. Jehovah has chosen John for a special work.' Zechariah asked: 'How can I believe you? My wife and I are too old to have a child.' Gabriel said: 'I have been sent by God to give you this news. But because you did not believe me, you will not be able to speak until after the baby is born.'

Zechariah stayed in the sanctuary longer than usual. So when he finally came out, the people waiting outside wanted to know what had happened. Zechariah could not speak. He could only make gestures with his hands. Then the people realized that Zechariah had received a message from God.

In time, Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a baby boy, just as the angel had said. Her friends and relatives came to see the baby. They were very happy for her. Elizabeth said: 'His name will be John.' They said: 'There's no one in your family named John. Name him Zechariah, after his father.' But Zechariah wrote down the words: 'John is his name.' At that moment, Zechariah could speak again! News about the baby spread all over Judea, and people wondered: 'What will this child grow up to be?'

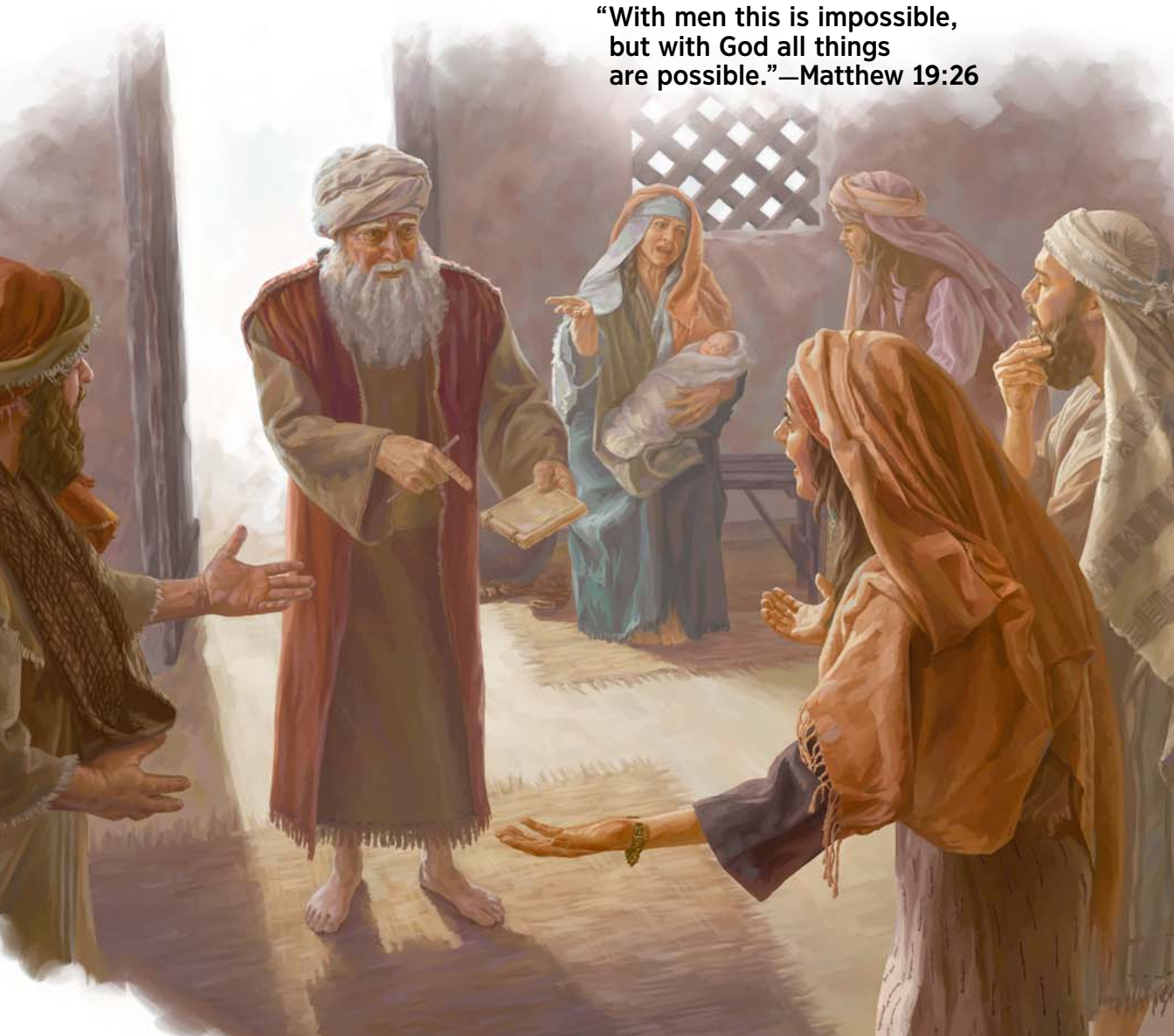
Then Zechariah became filled with holy spirit. He

prophesied: ‘Let Jehovah be praised. He promised Abraham that He would send a savior, the Messiah, to rescue us. John will be a prophet, and he will prepare the way for the Messiah.’

Something special also happened to Elizabeth’s relative Mary. Let’s find out about this in the next chapter.

Questions: What did Gabriel tell Zechariah? What special work would John do?

Matthew 11:7-14; Luke 1:5-25, 57-79; Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1



“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”—Matthew 19:26

69 Gabriel Visits Mary

Elizabeth had a young relative named Mary, who lived in the city of Nazareth in Galilee. Mary was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter. When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. He said: ‘Good day, Mary. Jehovah has greatly favored you.’ She did not understand what Gabriel meant. He then told her: ‘You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will rule as King. His Kingdom will last forever.’

Mary said: ‘But I am a virgin. How could I have a child?’ Gabriel said: ‘Nothing is impossible for Jehovah. Holy spirit will come upon you, and you will have a son. Your relative Elizabeth has also become pregnant.’ Then Mary said: ‘I am Jehovah’s slave girl. May it happen to me just as you have said.’

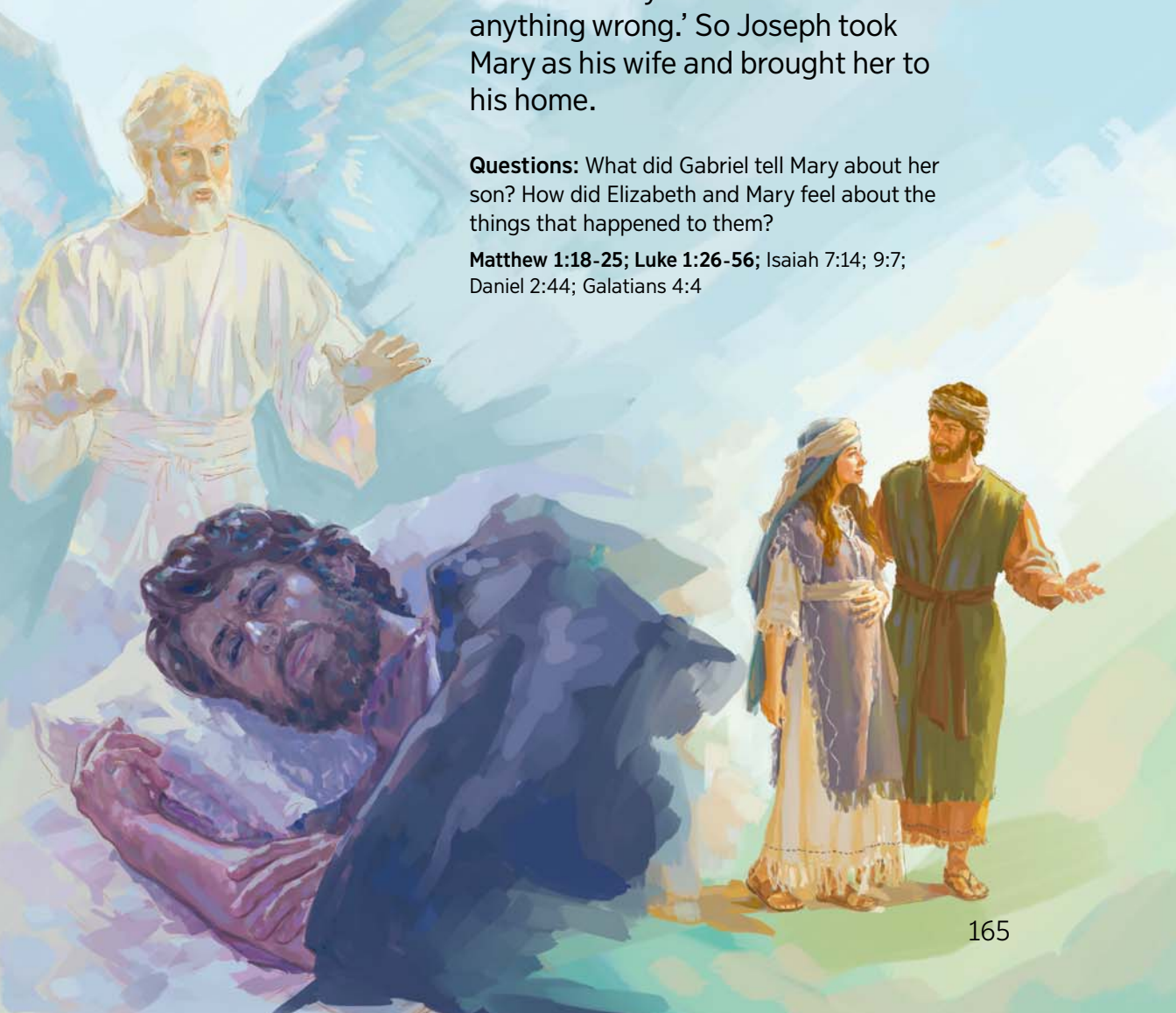
“Jehovah does everything he pleases to do in heaven and on earth.” —Psalm 135:6

Mary went to a city in the hills to visit Elizabeth. When Mary greeted her, Elizabeth felt the baby inside of her jump. Filled with holy spirit, she said: ‘Mary, Jehovah has blessed you. It is an honor to have the mother of my Lord in my home.’ Mary said: ‘I praise Jehovah with all my heart.’ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, and then she went home to Nazareth.

When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, he wanted to end the engagement. But an angel appeared to him in a dream and said: ‘Don’t be afraid to marry her. She hasn’t done anything wrong.’ So Joseph took Mary as his wife and brought her to his home.

Questions: What did Gabriel tell Mary about her son? How did Elizabeth and Mary feel about the things that happened to them?

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; Isaiah 7:14; 9:7; Daniel 2:44; Galatians 4:4

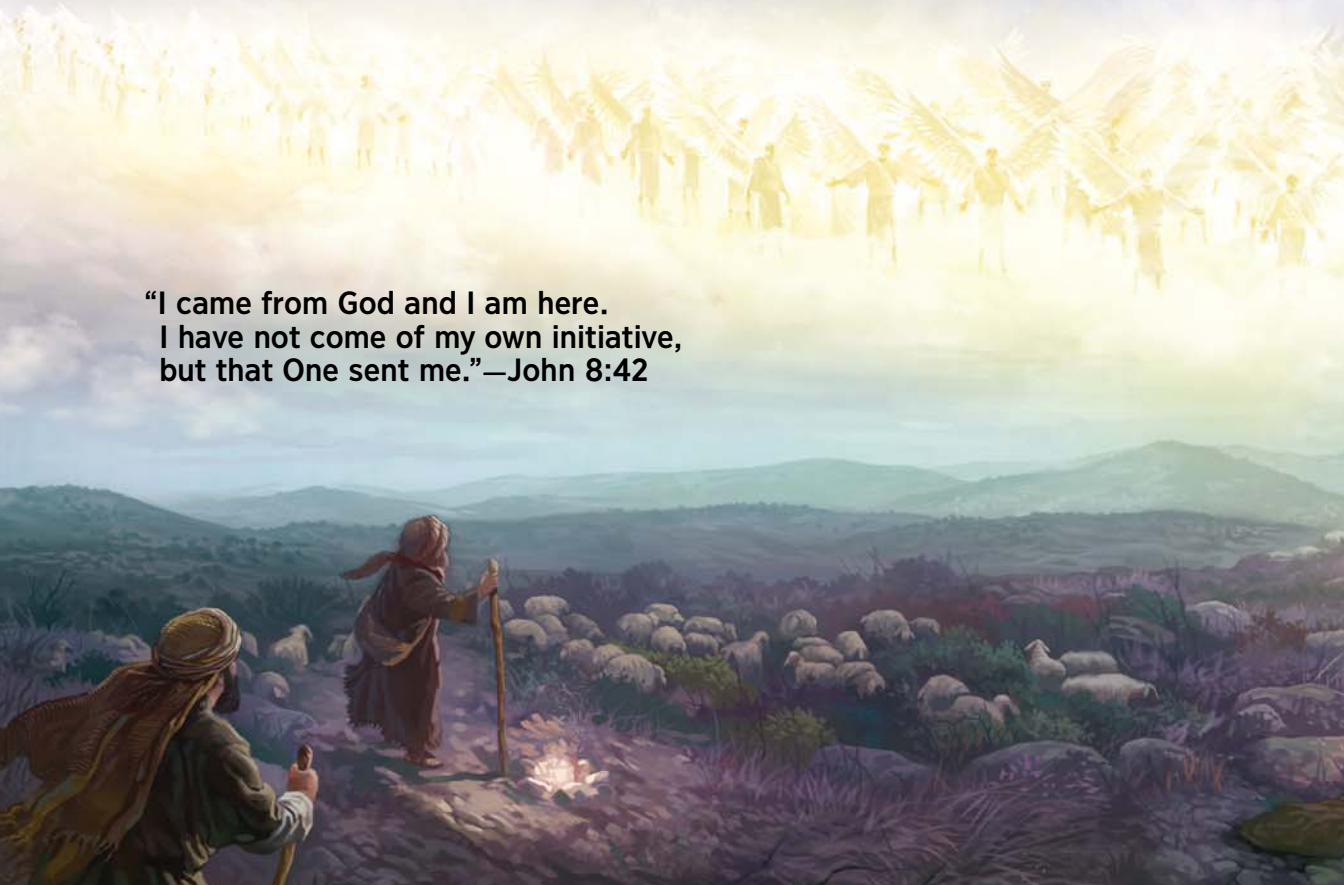


70 Angels Announce the Birth of Jesus

The ruler of the Roman Empire, Caesar Augustus, ordered that all Jews return to their hometowns to be registered. So Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, where Joseph's family came from. It was almost time for Mary to have her baby.

When they arrived at Bethlehem, the only place they could find to stay was a stable. It was there that Mary gave birth to her son Jesus. She wrapped him in soft cloths and laid him gently in a manger.

Near Bethlehem, some shepherds were spending the night outdoors, watching over their flocks. Suddenly, an angel stood before them and they were surrounded by the light of Jehovah's glory. The shepherds were frightened, but the angel said: 'Don't be afraid. I have exciting news. The Messiah was



"I came from God and I am here. I have not come of my own initiative, but that One sent me."—John 8:42

born today in Bethlehem.' At that moment, many angels appeared in the sky, saying: 'Glory to God in heaven, and peace on earth.' Then the angels disappeared. How did the shepherds react?

The shepherds said to one another: 'Let's go to Bethlehem right away.' They went quickly and found Joseph and Mary in the stable with their newborn baby.

Everyone who heard what the angel had told the shepherds was amazed. Mary thought deeply about the angel's words and never forgot them. The shepherds went back to their flocks, thanking Jehovah for all they had seen and heard.

Questions: How did the angels announce the birth of Jesus? Whom did the shepherds find in Bethlehem?

Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:6

71 Jehovah Protected Jesus

In a land to the east of Israel were people who believed that the stars could guide them. One night, some men from the East saw what looked like a bright star moving in the sky, and they followed it. The "star" led them to Jerusalem. The men started asking people: 'Where is the child who will be king of the Jews? We have come to bow down to him.'

When Herod, the king of Jerusalem, heard about a new king, he was very worried. He asked the chief priests: 'Where is this king supposed to be born?' They told him: 'The prophets said that he would be born in Bethlehem.' So Herod called the men from the East and told them: 'Go to Bethlehem and find this child. Come back and tell me where he is. I want to bow down to him too.' But that was a lie.

The "star" began to move again. The men followed it to Bethlehem. The "star" came to a stop above a house and the men went inside. They found Jesus with his mother, Mary. They bowed down to the child and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Had Jehovah really sent these men to find Jesus? No.

That night, Jehovah told Joseph in a dream: 'Herod wants to kill Jesus. Take your wife and son and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you it is safe to return.' Immediately, Joseph and his family went to Egypt.

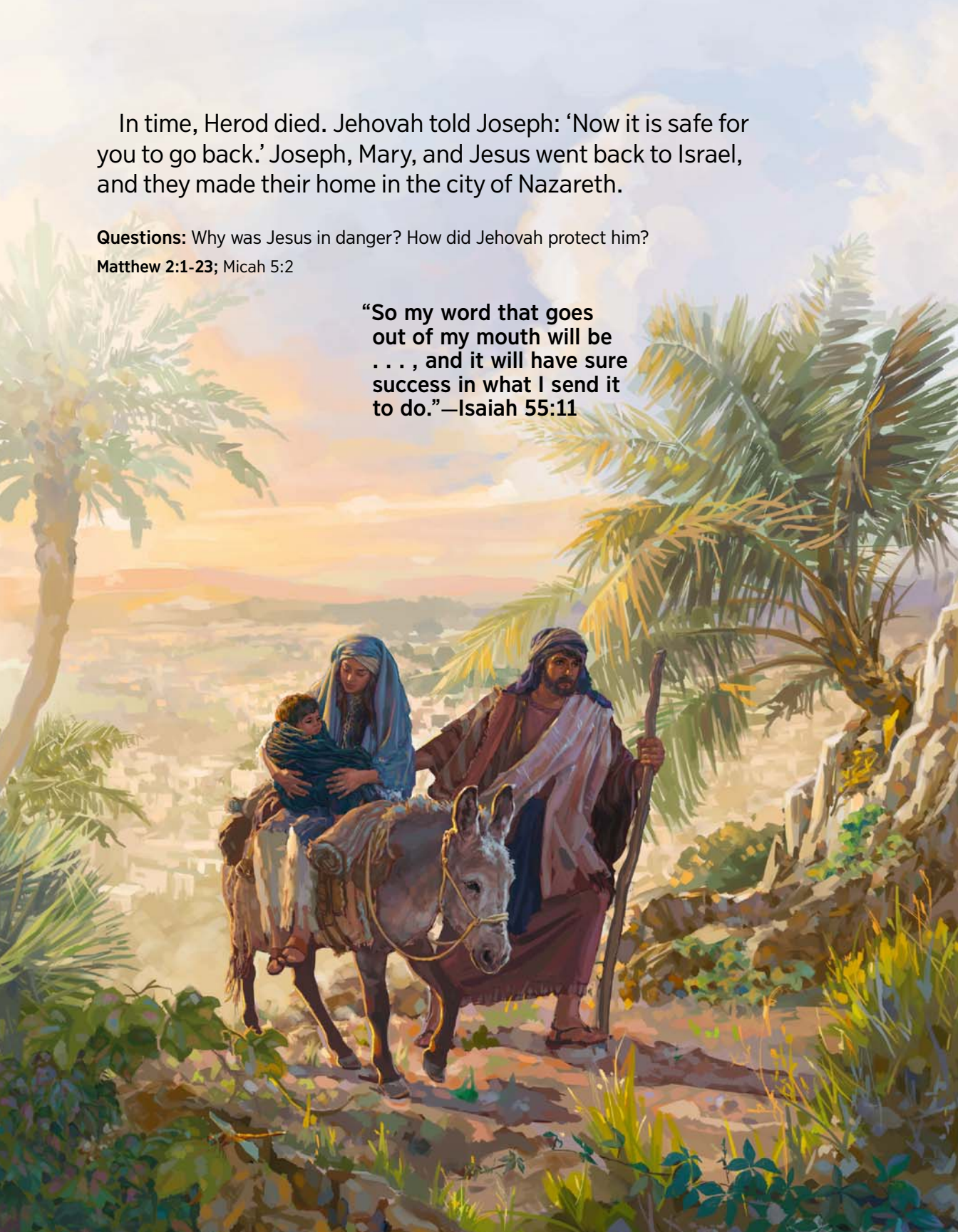
Jehovah had told the men from the East that they should not return to Herod. When Herod realized that they were not coming back, he was furious. Since he could not find Jesus, he ordered that all little boys of Jesus' age in Bethlehem be murdered. But Jesus was safe, far away in Egypt.

In time, Herod died. Jehovah told Joseph: ‘Now it is safe for you to go back.’ Joseph, Mary, and Jesus went back to Israel, and they made their home in the city of Nazareth.

Questions: Why was Jesus in danger? How did Jehovah protect him?

Matthew 2:1-23; Micah 5:2

“So my word that goes out of my mouth will be . . . , and it will have sure success in what I send it to do.”—Isaiah 55:11



72 Young Jesus

Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth with Jesus and their other sons and daughters. Joseph supported the family by working as a carpenter, and he taught them about Jehovah and his Law. The family went to the synagogue regularly to worship and to Jerusalem for the Passover each year.

When Jesus was 12 years old, his family made the long trip to Jerusalem as usual. The city was crowded with people who had come to celebrate the Passover. Afterward, Joseph and Mary began the journey home, thinking that Jesus was traveling with the group. But when they looked for him among their relatives, they couldn't find him.

They returned to Jerusalem, and for three days, they searched for their son. Finally, they went to the temple. There was Jesus, sitting in the middle of the teachers, listening carefully and asking good questions. The teachers were so

impressed with Jesus that they began asking him questions. And they were amazed by his answers. They could see that he understood Jehovah's Law.

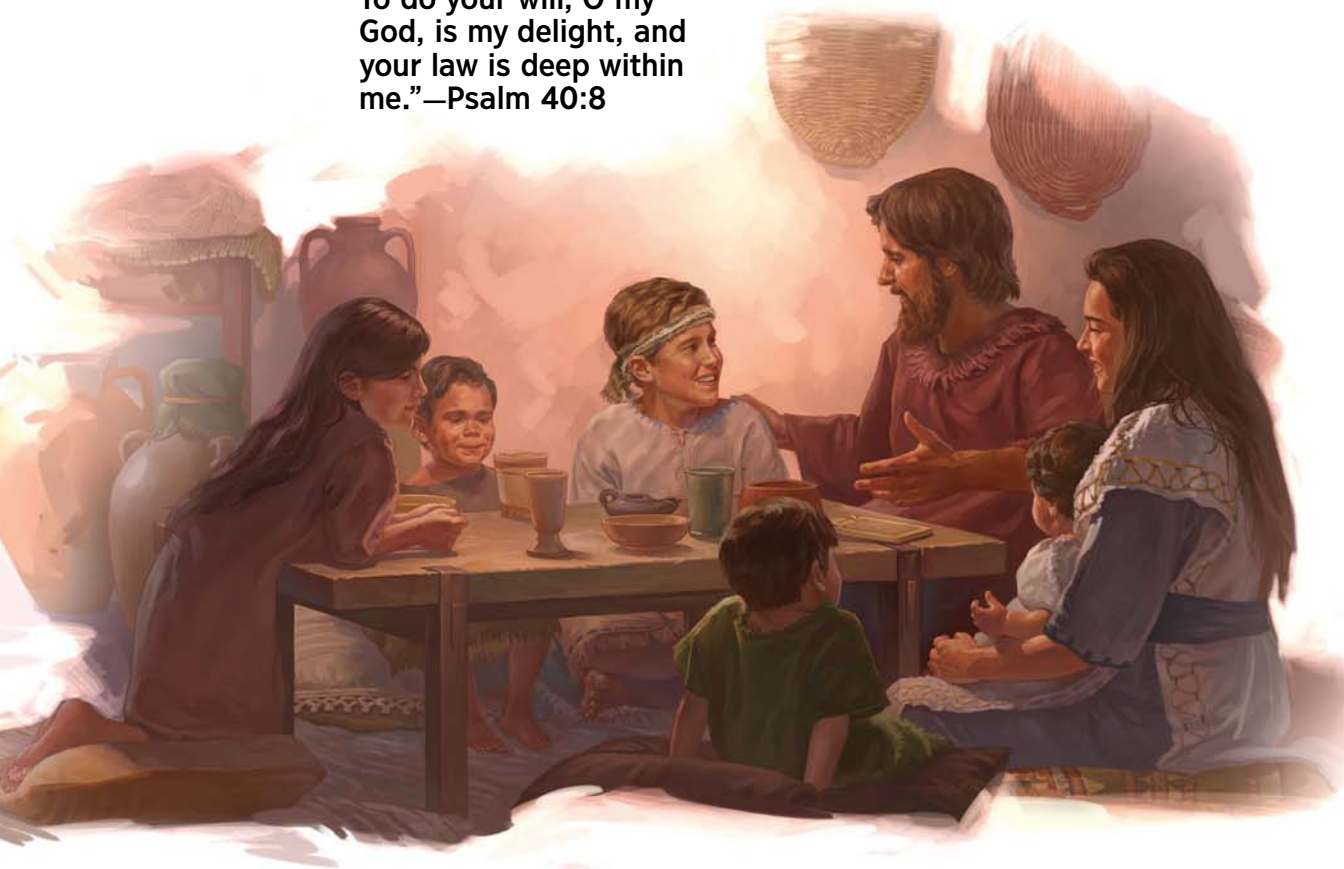
Joseph and Mary had been very worried. Mary said: 'Child, we have been looking everywhere for you! Where have you been?' Jesus said: 'Did you not know that I must be here in my Father's house?'

Jesus went home with his parents to Nazareth. Joseph taught Jesus how to do the work of a carpenter. What sort of person do you think Jesus was as a young man? As he grew up, Jesus increased in wisdom and in favor with God and men.

Questions: Where did Joseph and Mary find Jesus? Why was he there?

Matthew 13:55, 56; Mark 6:3; Luke 2:40-52; 4:16; Deuteronomy 16:15, 16

"To do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is deep within me."—Psalm 40:8



73 John Prepares the Way

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, became a prophet when he grew up. Jehovah used John to teach people that the Messiah was coming. But instead of teaching in synagogues or in towns, John preached in the wilderness. People came from Jerusalem and all over Judea to learn from John. He taught them that to please God, they needed to stop doing bad things. After listening to John, many repented of their sins, and John baptized them in the Jordan River.

John lived a simple life. He wore clothing made of camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey. People were curious about John. Even the proud Pharisees and Sadducees came to see him. John told them: 'You need to change your ways and repent. Don't think that you are special just because you say that you are children of Abraham. This does not mean that you are children of God.'

Many came to John and asked: 'What do we need to do to please God?' John told the Jews: 'If you have two coats, give one away to a person who needs it.' Do you know why he said that? He wanted his disciples to know that to please God, they must love people.

John said to the tax collectors: 'Be honest and do not cheat anybody.' He told the soldiers: 'Do not accept bribes or tell lies.'

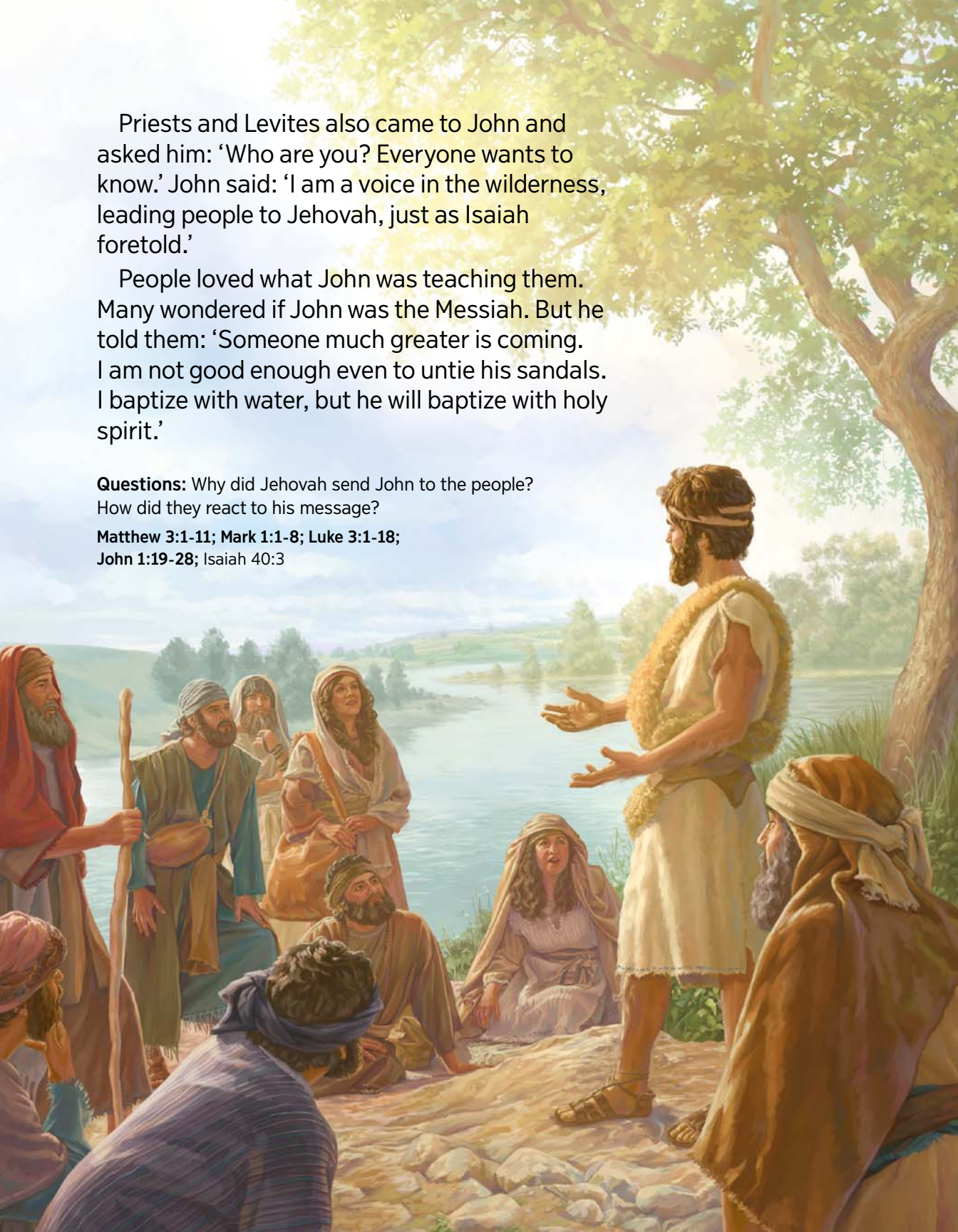
"This man came as a witness, in order to bear witness about the light, so that people of all sorts might believe through him."—John 1:7

Priests and Levites also came to John and asked him: ‘Who are you? Everyone wants to know.’ John said: ‘I am a voice in the wilderness, leading people to Jehovah, just as Isaiah foretold.’

People loved what John was teaching them. Many wondered if John was the Messiah. But he told them: ‘Someone much greater is coming. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. I baptize with water, but he will baptize with holy spirit.’

Questions: Why did Jehovah send John to the people? How did they react to his message?

Matthew 3:1-11; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18; John 1:19-28; Isaiah 40:3



12

Jesus taught people about the Kingdom of the heavens. He also taught them to pray for God's name to be sanctified, for his Kingdom to come, and for his will to take place on the earth. If you are a parent, explain to your child what this prayer means for us. Jesus did not allow Satan to break his loyalty. Jesus selected his apostles, and they became the foundation members of the Kingdom. Note Jesus' zeal for true worship. Because he wanted to help others, Jesus cured the sick, fed the hungry, and even brought people back to life. By all these miracles, he demonstrated what the Kingdom will do for mankind.

KEY LESSONS

- Jesus gave his followers the work of preaching about the Kingdom and making disciples
- Pray about matters that have to do with Jehovah before you pray about yourself
- Forgive freely from the heart, and treat others as you would like them to treat you

74 Jesus Becomes the Messiah

John had been preaching: ‘Someone greater than I am is coming.’ When Jesus was about 30 years old, he came from Galilee to the Jordan River, where John was baptizing people. Jesus wanted John to baptize him, but John said: ‘I should not baptize you. You should baptize me.’ Jesus told John: ‘Jehovah wants you to baptize me.’ So they went into the Jordan River, and John dipped Jesus completely under the water.

After Jesus came up from the water, he prayed. At that moment, the heavens opened up, and God’s spirit came down on him like a dove. Then Jehovah spoke from heaven: “You are my Son, the beloved; I have approved you.”

When Jehovah’s spirit came on Jesus, he became the Christ, or Messiah. Now he would start the work that Jehovah had sent him to earth to do.

Immediately after his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness and spent 40 days there. When he returned, he went to see John. As Jesus came toward him, John said: ‘This is the Lamb of God who will take away the sin of the world.’ By saying this, John let the people know that Jesus was the Messiah. Do you know what happened to Jesus while he was in the wilderness? Let’s find out.

Questions: Why was Jesus baptized?
Why did John say that Jesus was the Lamb of God?

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23; John 1:29-34;
Isaiah 42:1; Hebrews 10:7-9

"A voice came out of the heavens: 'You are my Son, the beloved; I have approved you.'"—Mark 1:11

75 The Devil Tests Jesus

After Jesus was baptized, the holy spirit led him into the wilderness. He did not eat anything for 40 days, and he got very hungry. Then the Devil came to tempt Jesus and said to him: ‘If you are really God’s Son, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But Jesus answered by quoting the Scriptures: ‘It is written that you need more than food to live. You need to listen to every word that Jehovah says.’

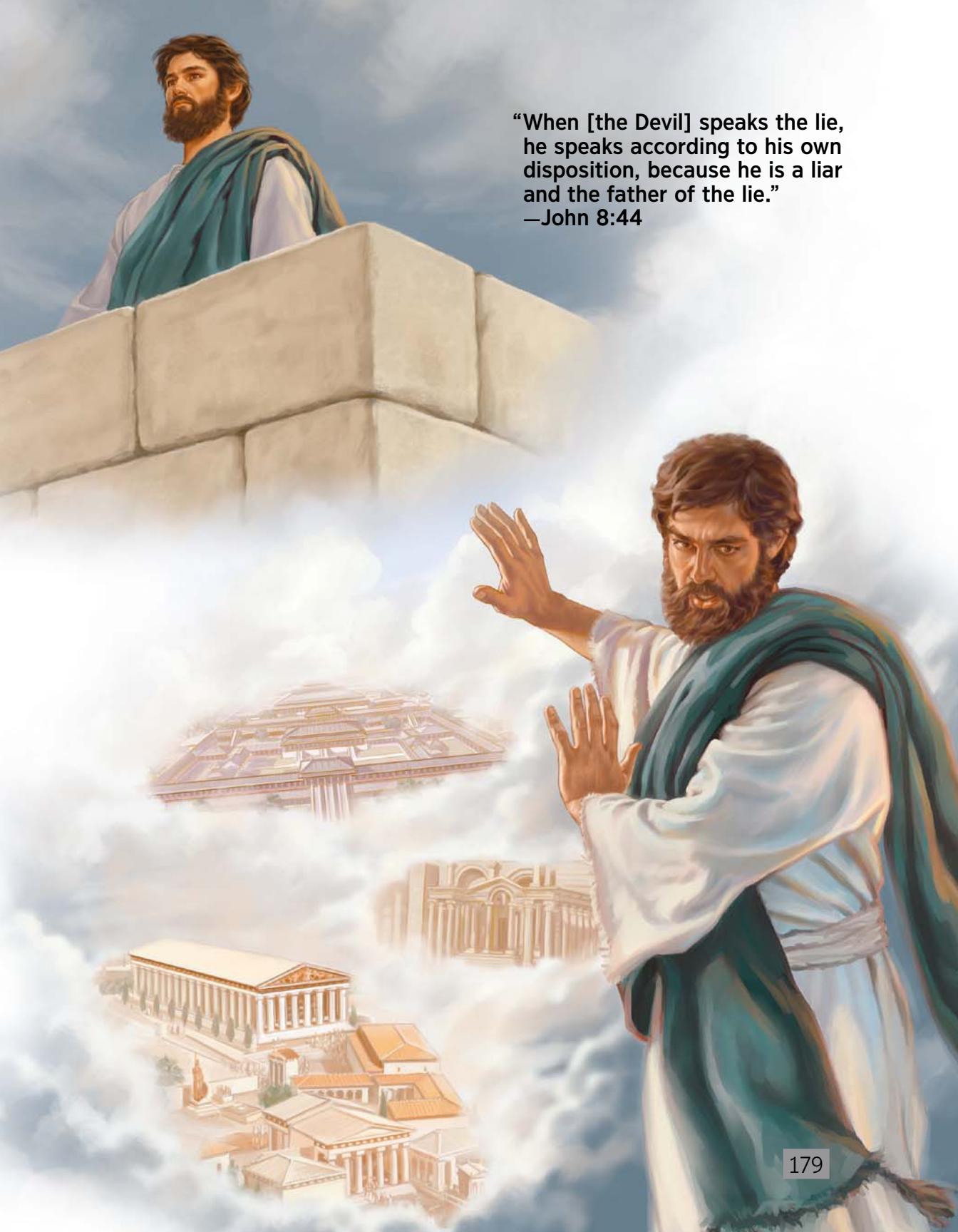
Next, the Devil challenged Jesus: ‘If you are really God’s Son, jump off the highest point of the temple. It is written that God will send his angels to catch you.’ But Jesus again quoted the Scriptures: ‘It is written that you should not put Jehovah to the test.’

Then, Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their riches and glory and said: ‘I will give you all of these kingdoms and their glory if you worship me just once.’ But Jesus answered: ‘Go away, Satan! It is written that you should worship only Jehovah.’

Then the Devil went away, and angels came and gave Jesus food to eat. From then on, Jesus preached the good news of the Kingdom. It was the work that he was sent to earth to do. People loved what Jesus taught them, and they followed him everywhere he went.

Questions: What were the three temptations? How did Jesus answer the Devil?

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-15; Deuteronomy 6:13, 16; 8:3; James 4:7



“When [the Devil] speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie.”
—John 8:44

76 Jesus Cleanses the Temple

In the spring of the year 30 C.E., Jesus went to Jerusalem. Many people had come to the city for the Passover. As part of the celebration, they made animal offerings at the temple. Some people brought animals with them, but others bought them in Jerusalem.

When Jesus went to the temple, he saw people selling animals there. They were making money for themselves right in Jehovah's house of worship! How did Jesus react? He made a whip out of ropes and drove the sheep and the cattle out of the temple. He overturned the tables of the money changers and poured

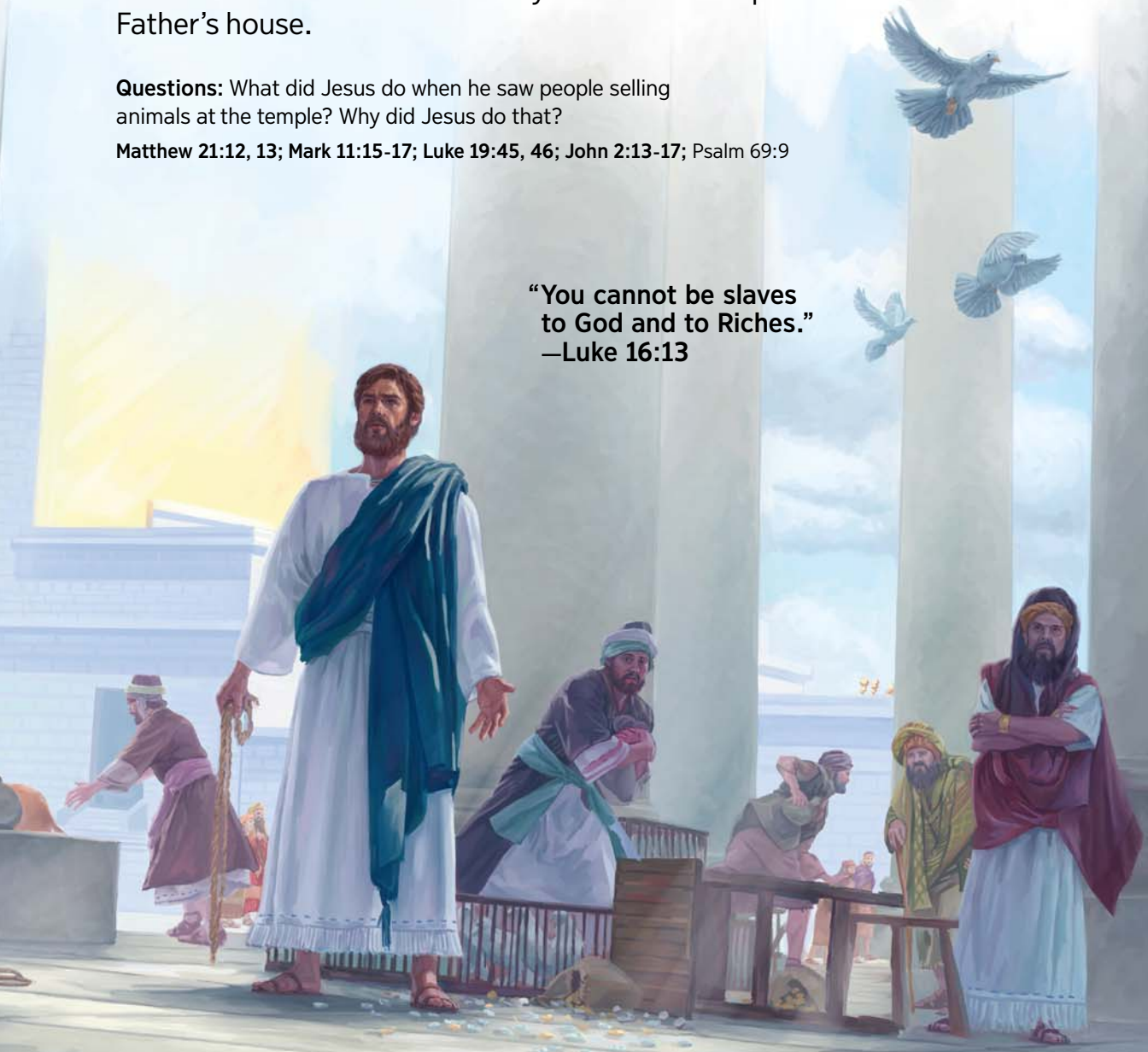
their coins out on the ground. Jesus told those who were selling doves: ‘Take these things away from here! Do not make my Father’s house a place of business!’

People at the temple were amazed at what Jesus did. His disciples remembered the prophecy about the Messiah: ‘I will be full of zeal for Jehovah’s house.’

Later, in the year 33 C.E., Jesus cleansed the temple a second time. He would not let anyone show disrespect for his Father’s house.

Questions: What did Jesus do when he saw people selling animals at the temple? Why did Jesus do that?

Matthew 21:12, 13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45, 46; John 2:13-17; Psalm 69:9



“You cannot be slaves to God and to Riches.” —Luke 16:13

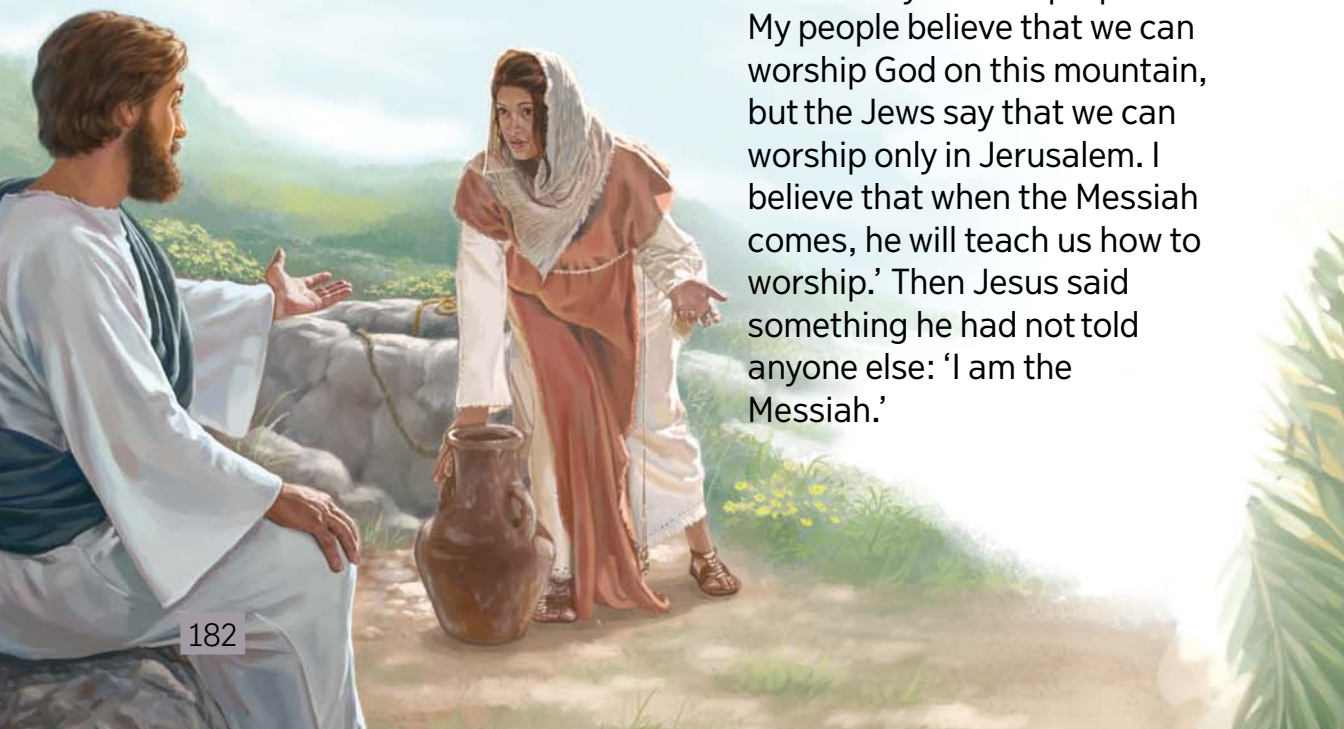
77 The Woman at the Well

After the Passover, Jesus and his disciples traveled through Samaria on their way back to Galilee. Near the city of Sychar, Jesus stopped at a place called Jacob's well. While he rested there, his disciples went into the city to buy food.

A woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her: "Give me a drink." She said: 'Why are you talking to me? I'm a Samaritan woman. Jews don't talk to Samaritans.' Jesus told her: 'If you knew who I am, you would ask me for a drink and I would give you living water.' 'What do you mean?' asked the woman. 'You don't even have a bucket.' Jesus said: 'Whoever drinks the water that I give him will never get thirsty again.' The woman said: "Sir, give me this water."

" 'Come!' and let anyone thirsting come; let anyone who wishes take life's water free." —Revelation 22:17

Jesus then told her: 'Bring your husband to the well.' She said: 'I don't have a husband.' He said: 'You are telling the truth. You've been married five times, and now you live with a man to whom you are not married.' The woman said: 'I see that you are a prophet. My people believe that we can worship God on this mountain, but the Jews say that we can worship only in Jerusalem. I believe that when the Messiah comes, he will teach us how to worship.' Then Jesus said something he had not told anyone else: 'I am the Messiah.'

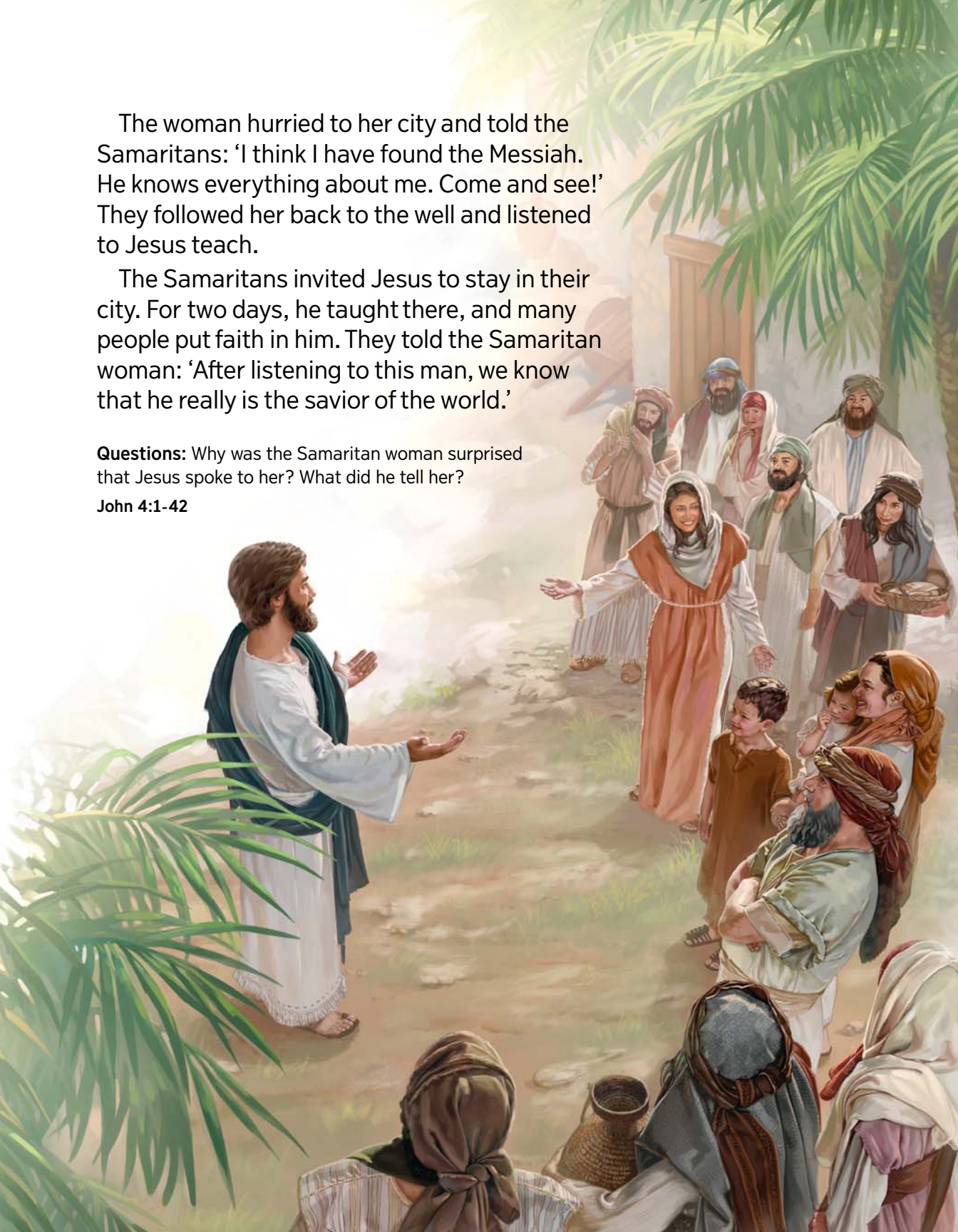


The woman hurried to her city and told the Samaritans: ‘I think I have found the Messiah. He knows everything about me. Come and see!’ They followed her back to the well and listened to Jesus teach.

The Samaritans invited Jesus to stay in their city. For two days, he taught there, and many people put faith in him. They told the Samaritan woman: ‘After listening to this man, we know that he really is the savior of the world.’

Questions: Why was the Samaritan woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her? What did he tell her?

John 4:1-42



78 Jesus Preaches the Kingdom Message

Shortly after his baptism, Jesus began to preach: ‘The Kingdom of God is near.’ Disciples followed him as he traveled around Galilee and Judea. When Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth, he went to the synagogue, opened the scroll of Isaiah, and read aloud: ‘Jehovah has given me holy spirit so that I can preach the good news.’ What did that mean? It meant that even though people wanted to see Jesus perform miracles, the main reason he had received holy spirit was to preach the good news. Then he told his listeners: ‘Today this prophecy has come true.’

Next, Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee, where he met four of his disciples, who were fishermen. He invited them, saying: ‘Come with me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ They were Peter, Andrew, James, and John. They immediately left their fishing business and followed him. They went all over Galilee, preaching about Jehovah’s Kingdom. They preached in synagogues, at marketplaces, and in the streets. A large crowd followed them wherever they went. News about Jesus spread everywhere, even as far as Syria.

In time, Jesus gave some of his followers the power to heal people and to expel demons. Others went with him as he preached from city to city and from village to village. A number of faithful women, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and others, took care of Jesus and his followers.

After training his disciples, Jesus sent them out to preach. As they traveled throughout Galilee, many others became disciples and got baptized. So many wanted to be disciples that Jesus compared them to a field that was ready to be harvested. He said: ‘Pray to Jehovah to send more workers to harvest the crop.’ He later chose 70 of his disciples and sent

"I must also declare the good news of the Kingdom of God to other cities, because for this I was sent."—Luke 4:43

them out in pairs to preach all around Judea. They taught all kinds of people about the Kingdom. When the disciples came back, they were eager to tell Jesus what had happened. There was nothing the Devil could do to stop the preaching work.

Jesus made sure that his disciples would continue to do this important work after he returned to heaven. He told them: 'Preach the good news all over the earth. Teach people about God's Word, and baptize them.'

Questions: What work did Jesus give his disciples to do? How did the disciples feel about their work?

Matthew 4:17-25; 9:35-38; 28:19, 20; Mark 1:14-20; Luke 4:14-21; 8:1-3; 10:1-22

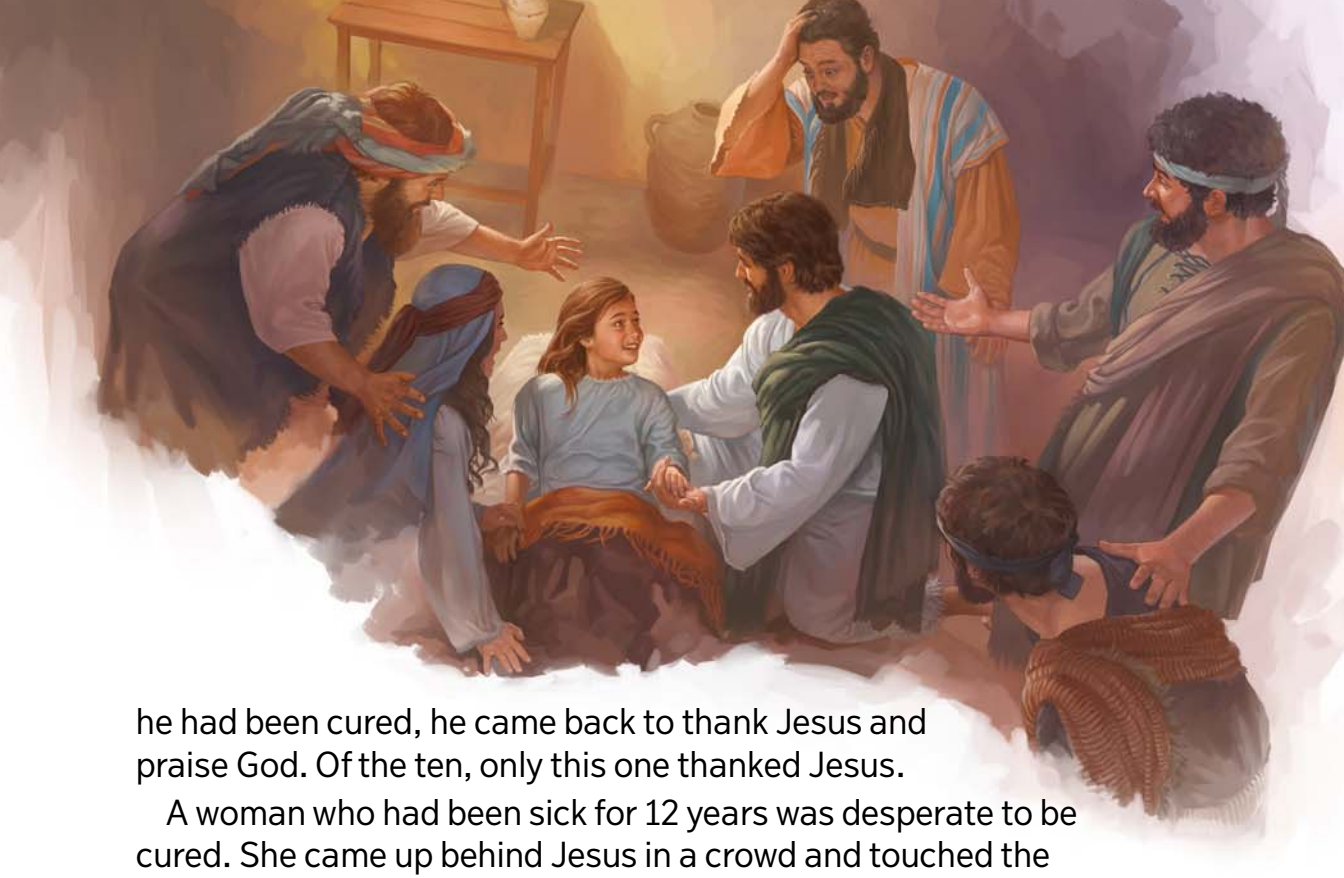
79 Jesus Performs Many Miracles

Jesus came to earth to declare the good news of God's Kingdom. To show what Jesus will do as King, Jehovah gave him holy spirit to perform miracles. He could cure any sickness. Wherever he went, sick people came to him for help, and he cured them all. The blind could see, the deaf could hear, paralyzed people could walk, and those controlled by demons were set free. Even if they just touched the edge of his clothing, they would be healed. People followed Jesus wherever he went. Even when he wanted to be alone, Jesus never turned anyone away.

One time, people brought a paralyzed man to a house where Jesus was staying. But the house was so crowded that they could not get in. So they made a hole in the roof and lowered the man down to Jesus. Then Jesus told the man: 'Get up and walk.' When he did, the people were amazed.

Another time, as Jesus entered a village, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance and shouted: 'Jesus, help us!' In those days, lepers were not allowed to come near other people. Jesus told the men to go to the temple, as Jehovah's Law said lepers must do after being cured. On their way there, they were healed. When one of the lepers realized that

"God anointed him with holy spirit and power, and he went through the land doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him."—Acts 10:38



he had been cured, he came back to thank Jesus and praise God. Of the ten, only this one thanked Jesus.

A woman who had been sick for 12 years was desperate to be cured. She came up behind Jesus in a crowd and touched the edge of his outer garment. Immediately, she was healed. When that happened, Jesus asked: "Who touched me?" The woman was frightened, but she came forward and told him the truth. Jesus comforted her by saying: 'Daughter, go in peace.'

An officer named Jairus begged Jesus: 'Come to my house! My little daughter is very sick.' But before Jesus could get to Jairus' house, the girl died. When Jesus arrived, he saw that many people had come to mourn with the family. Jesus told them: 'Don't cry; she is only sleeping.' Then he took the girl's hand and said: "Child, get up!" She sat up immediately, and Jesus told her parents to give her something to eat. Just think how her parents must have felt!

Questions: Why was Jesus able to cure all kinds of sicknesses?
What happened to Jairus' daughter?

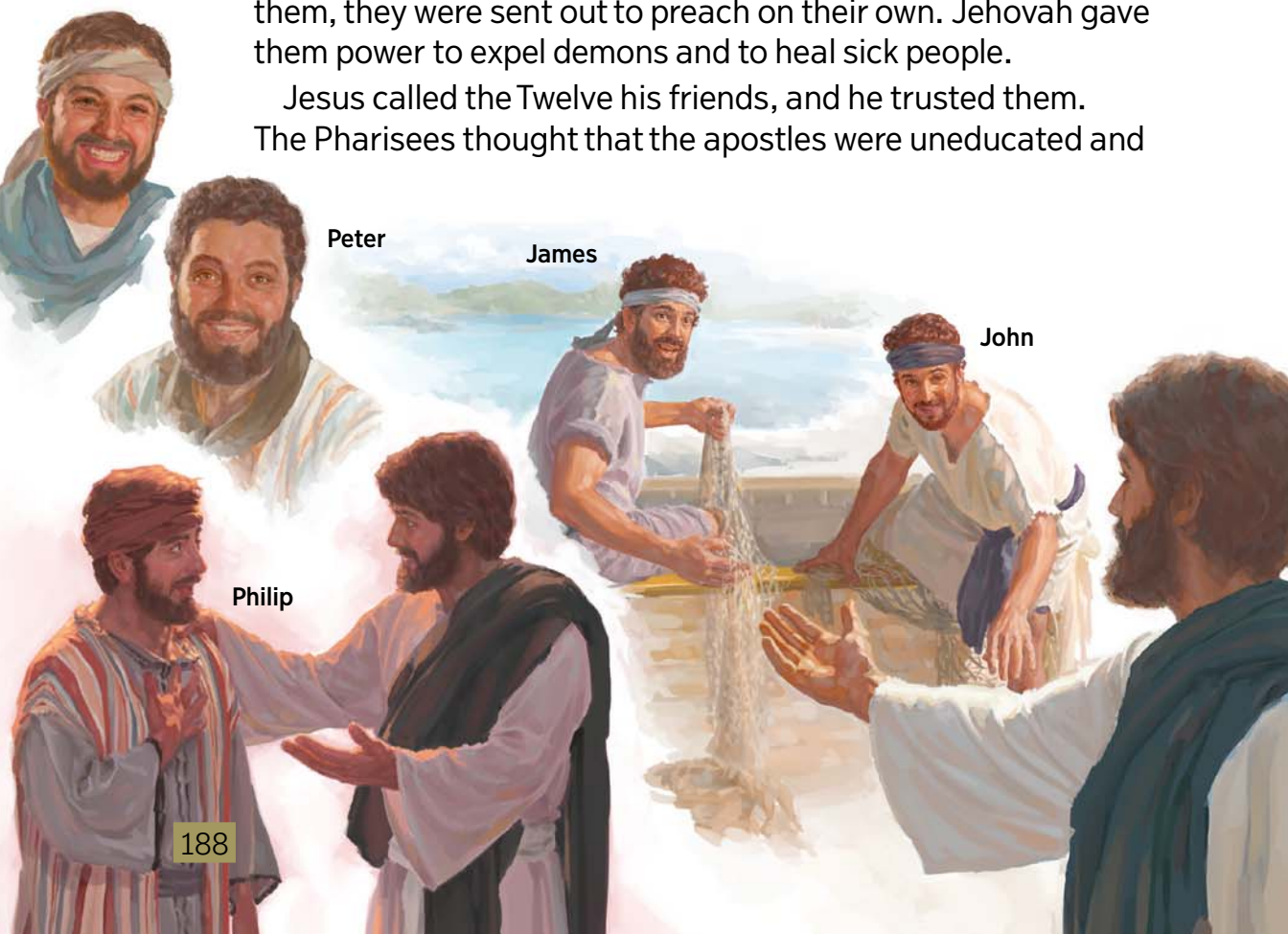
Matthew 9:18-26; 14:36; Mark 2:1-12; 5:21-43; 6:55, 56; Luke 6:19; 8:41-56; 17:11-19

80 Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles

After Jesus had been preaching for about a year and a half, he had an important decision to make. Whom would he choose to work closely with him? Whom would he train to take the lead in the Christian congregation? To make these decisions, Jesus wanted Jehovah's direction. So he went to a mountain where he could be by himself, and he prayed all night long. In the morning, Jesus called some of his disciples together and chose his 12 apostles. Which of their names do you remember? Their names were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot.

The Twelve would travel along with him. After he trained them, they were sent out to preach on their own. Jehovah gave them power to expel demons and to heal sick people.

Jesus called the Twelve his friends, and he trusted them. The Pharisees thought that the apostles were uneducated and



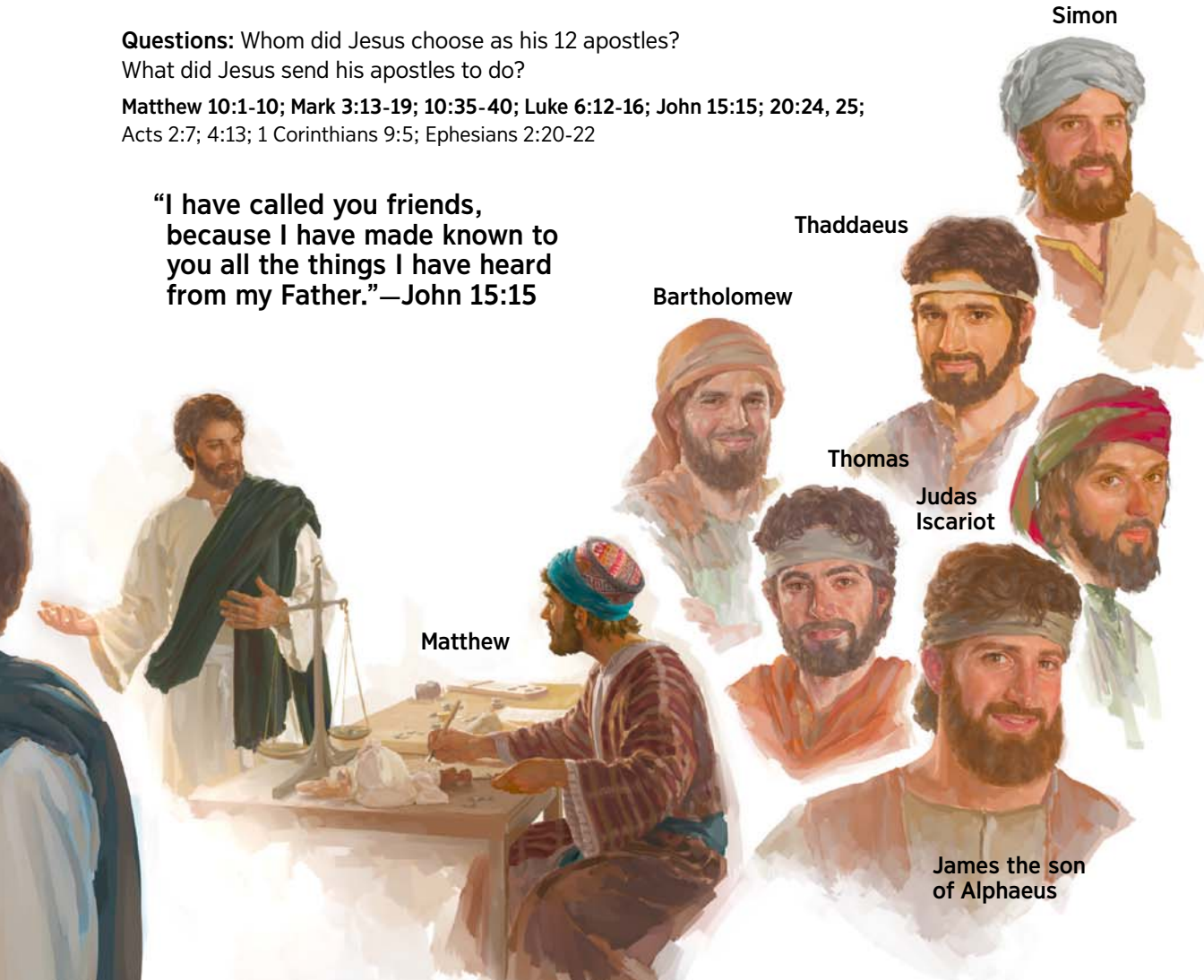
ordinary. But Jesus gave them training for their work. They would be with Jesus at the most important times in his life, such as before his death and after his resurrection. Like Jesus, most of the Twelve were from Galilee. Some of them were married.

The apostles were imperfect men who made mistakes. Sometimes they spoke before thinking and made bad decisions. At times they were impatient. They even argued over who was more important. But they were good people who loved Jehovah. They would be the foundation of the Christian congregation after Jesus was gone.

Questions: Whom did Jesus choose as his 12 apostles? What did Jesus send his apostles to do?

Matthew 10:1-10; Mark 3:13-19; 10:35-40; Luke 6:12-16; John 15:15; 20:24, 25; Acts 2:7; 4:13; 1 Corinthians 9:5; Ephesians 2:20-22

"I have called you friends, because I have made known to you all the things I have heard from my Father."—John 15:15



81 The Sermon on the Mountain

After choosing the 12 apostles, Jesus came down the mountain to a place where a large crowd was gathered. They had come from Galilee, Judea, Tyre, Sidon, Syria, and the other side of the Jordan. They brought people who were suffering from diseases and some who were tormented by demons. Jesus healed them all. Then he sat down on the mountainside and began to speak. He explained what we must do if we want to be friends of God. We must realize that we need Jehovah and learn to love him. But we cannot love God if we do not love other people. We must be kind and fair to everyone, even our enemies.

Jesus said: ‘It’s not enough to love just your friends. You also need to love your enemies and to forgive people from your heart. If someone is upset with you, go to him right away and apologize. Treat others the way you want them to treat you.’

Jesus also gave the people good advice about material things. He said: ‘It’s more important to be Jehovah’s friend than to have a lot of money. A thief can steal your money, but no one can steal your friendship with Jehovah. Stop worrying about what you will eat, drink, or wear. Look at the birds. God always makes sure that they have enough to eat. Worrying will not make you live one day longer. Remember, Jehovah knows what you need.’

The crowds had never heard anyone speak as Jesus did. Their religious leaders had not taught them these things. Why was Jesus such a great teacher? Because everything he taught came from Jehovah.

Questions: What must we do to become Jehovah’s friend? How does Jehovah want you to treat others?

Matthew 4:24–5:48; 6:19-34; 7:28, 29; Luke 6:17-31

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for yourselves.” —Matthew 11:29

82 Jesus Teaches His Disciples How to Pray

Everything the Pharisees did was to impress people. If they did something kind, it was so that others would notice. They prayed in public places so that everyone could see them. The Pharisees memorized long prayers and repeated them in synagogues and on street corners where others could hear them. So the people were surprised when Jesus told them: ‘Don’t pray like the Pharisees. They think that God will be impressed by their many words, but he is not. Prayer is between you and Jehovah. Don’t say the same things over and over. Jehovah wants you to tell him how you really feel inside.

‘This is how you should pray: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will

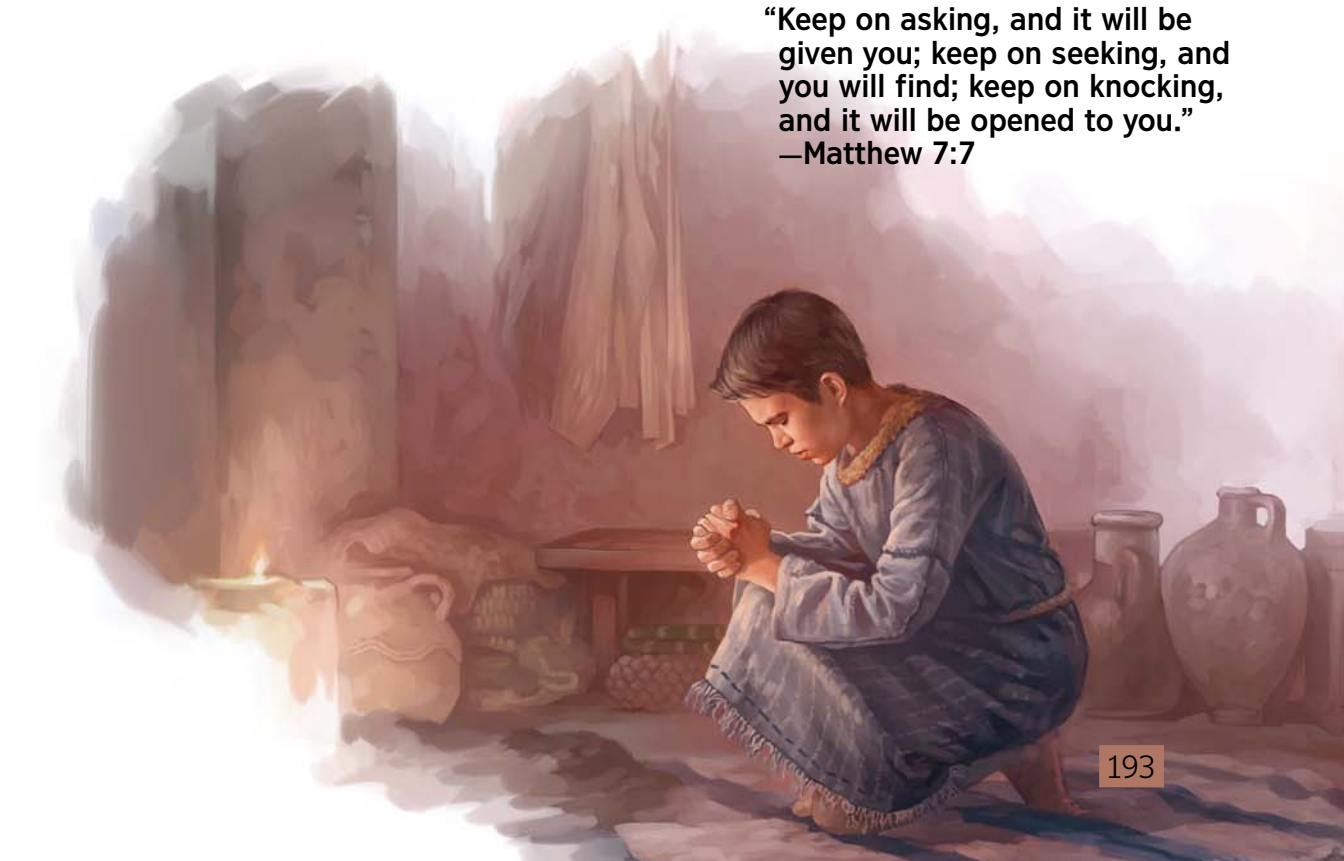
take place, as in heaven, also on earth."' Jesus also told them that they should pray for their food for the day, for their sins to be forgiven, and about other personal matters.

Jesus said: 'Never stop praying. Keep on asking your Father, Jehovah, for good things. Every parent wants to give good things to his child. If your son asks you for bread, will you give him a stone? If he asks for a fish, will you give him a snake?'

Then Jesus explained the lesson: 'If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will your Father, Jehovah, give holy spirit to you? All you need to do is ask.' Do you follow Jesus' advice? What sort of things do you pray about?

Questions: What did Jesus say to teach his disciples how to pray? Do you pray about things that are important to you?

Matthew 6:2-18; 7:7-11; Luke 11:13



"Keep on asking, and it will be given you; keep on seeking, and you will find; keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you." —Matthew 7:7

83 Jesus Feeds Thousands

Just before Passover of the year 32 C.E., the apostles returned from a preaching tour. They were tired, so Jesus took them by boat to Bethsaida, where they could rest. But when the boat came near the shore, Jesus saw that thousands of people had followed them there. Even though Jesus wanted to be alone with his apostles, he welcomed the people kindly. He cured their sick ones and began to teach them. All day long, Jesus taught them about God's Kingdom. When evening fell, his apostles came to him and said: 'The people must be hungry. Send them away so that they can get something to eat.'

Jesus said: 'They do not have to leave. Give them something to eat here.' The apostles asked: 'Do you want us to go and buy bread for them?' Philip, one of the apostles, said: 'Even if we had a lot of money, we could not buy enough bread for this crowd.'

Jesus asked: 'How much food do we have?' Andrew said: 'We have five loaves of bread and two small fish. That is not nearly enough.' Jesus said: 'Bring me the bread and the fish.' He told the people to sit on the grass in groups of 50 and of 100. Jesus took the loaves and fish, looked up to heaven, and prayed. Then he gave the food to the apostles, and they handed it out to the people. The 5,000 men and the

women and children all ate until they were full. Afterward, the apostles collected what was left over, so that nothing was wasted. There were 12 baskets full! That was an amazing miracle, wasn't it?

"Work, not for the food that perishes, but for the food that remains for everlasting life, which the Son of man will give you." —John 6:27

The people were so impressed that they wanted to make Jesus their king. But Jesus knew that it was not Jehovah's time for him to be king. So he sent the crowds away and told his apostles to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They got into their boat, and Jesus went up into a mountain by himself. Why? Because he wanted time to pray to his Father. No matter how busy he was, Jesus always made time for prayer.

Questions: How did Jesus show that he cared about people? What does this teach us about Jehovah?

Matthew 14:14-22; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

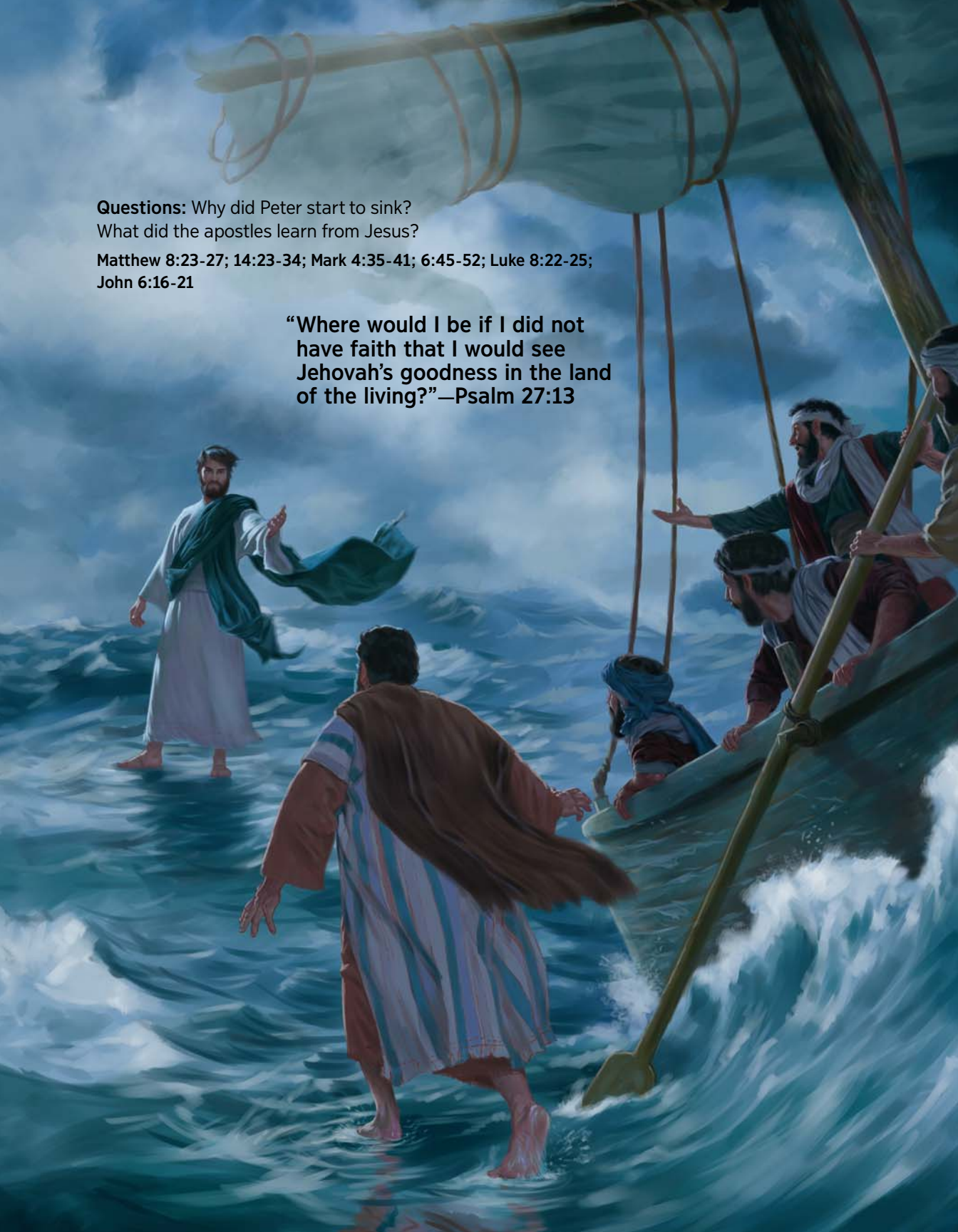
84 Jesus Walks on Water

Not only could Jesus heal the sick and resurrect the dead but he could also control the wind and the rain. After praying on a mountain, Jesus looked down at the Sea of Galilee and saw a storm. His apostles were in their boat, struggling to row against the wind. Jesus came down and began to walk on the water toward their boat. When the apostles saw someone walking on the water, they became frightened. But Jesus told them: 'It is I. Don't be afraid.'

Peter said: 'Lord, if it's really you, command me to come to you.' Jesus told Peter: 'Come to me.' So in the middle of the storm, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But as he got near him, Peter looked at the storm and became afraid. He felt himself starting to sink. Peter shouted: 'Lord, save me!' Jesus caught his hand, saying: 'Why did you begin to doubt? Where is your faith?'

Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, and immediately, the storm stopped. Can you imagine how the apostles felt? They said: "You really are God's Son."

This was not the only time that Jesus controlled the weather. At another time, when Jesus and the apostles sailed to the other side of the sea, Jesus went to sleep in the back of the boat. While he was asleep, a violent storm came up. Waves crashed into the boat, and the boat filled with water. The apostles woke Jesus up, shouting: 'Teacher, we are about to die! Help us!' Jesus got up and said to the sea: "Be quiet!" Right away, the wind and the sea became calm. Jesus asked the apostles: 'Where is your faith?' They said to one another: "Even the wind and the sea obey him." The apostles learned that if they trusted Jesus completely, they did not need to be afraid of anything.



Questions: Why did Peter start to sink? What did the apostles learn from Jesus?

Matthew 8:23-27; 14:23-34; Mark 4:35-41; 6:45-52; Luke 8:22-25; John 6:16-21

"Where would I be if I did not have faith that I would see Jehovah's goodness in the land of the living?"—Psalm 27:13

85 Jesus Cures on the Sabbath

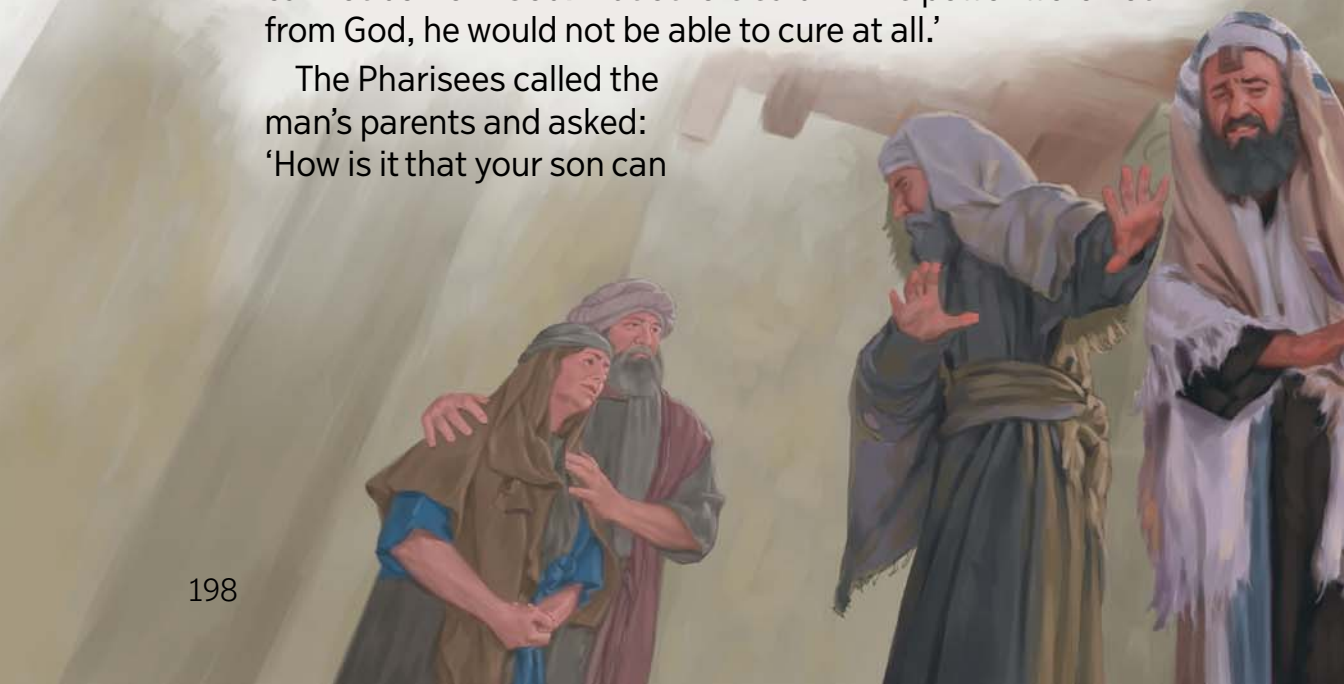
The Pharisees hated Jesus and wanted to find a reason to arrest him. They said that he should not heal sick people on the Sabbath. One Sabbath, Jesus found a blind man begging in the street. He told his disciples: 'See how God's power will help this man.' Jesus mixed his own saliva with dirt to make a paste, and then he put it on the man's eyes. Jesus told him: 'Go and wash your eyes in the pool of Siloam.' The man did that, and then for the first time in his life, he could see.

"You are mistaken, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."—Matthew 22:29

People were shocked. They said: 'Is this the man who used to sit and beg, or is it just someone who looks like him?' The man said: 'I was the one born blind!' The people asked him: 'Why aren't you blind anymore?' When he told them what had happened, they took him to the Pharisees.

The man told the Pharisees: 'Jesus put a paste on my eyes and told me to go and wash it off. I did, and now I can see.' The Pharisees said: 'If Jesus cures on the Sabbath, his power cannot be from God.' But others said: 'If his power were not from God, he would not be able to cure at all.'

The Pharisees called the man's parents and asked: 'How is it that your son can

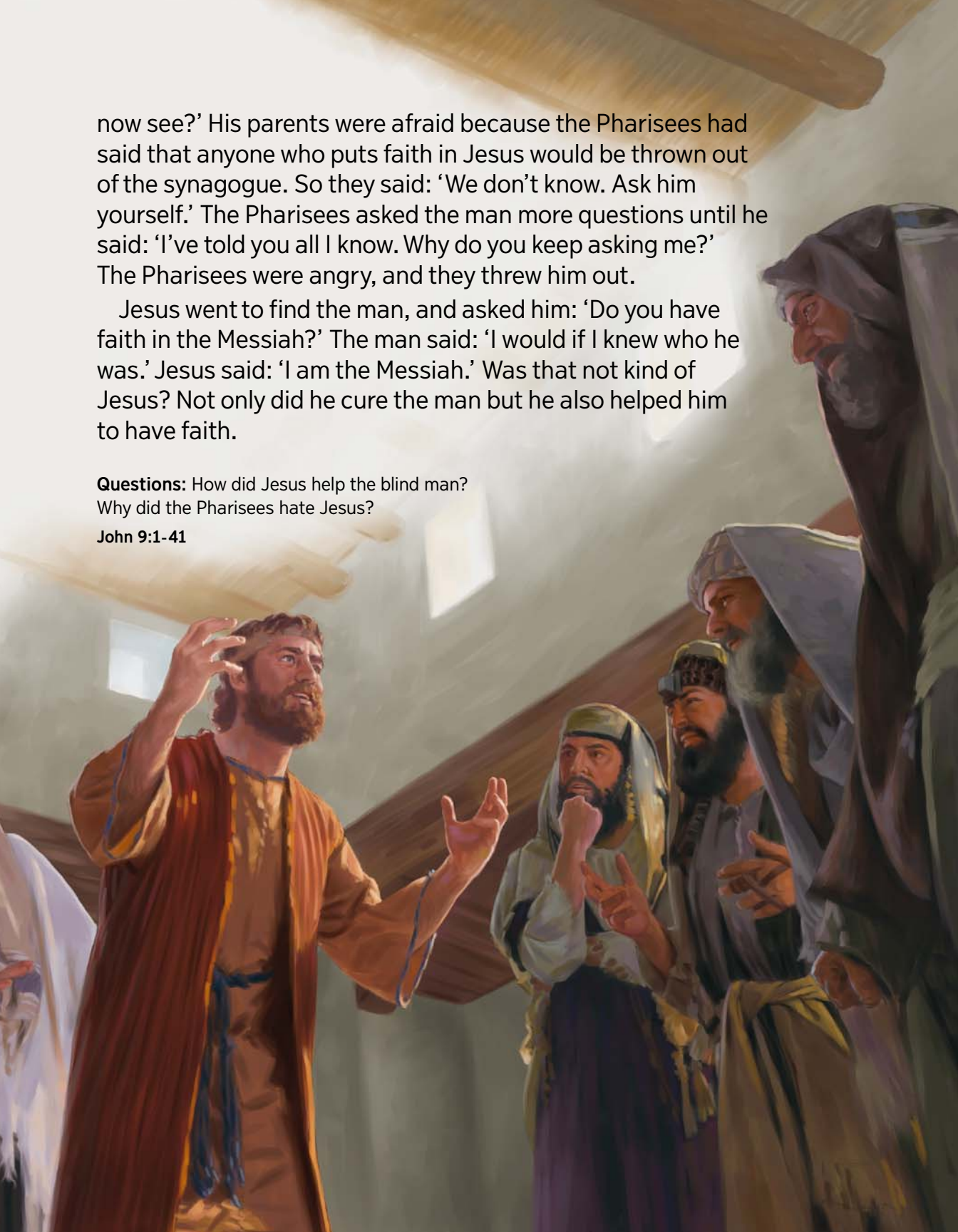


now see?' His parents were afraid because the Pharisees had said that anyone who puts faith in Jesus would be thrown out of the synagogue. So they said: 'We don't know. Ask him yourself.' The Pharisees asked the man more questions until he said: 'I've told you all I know. Why do you keep asking me?' The Pharisees were angry, and they threw him out.

Jesus went to find the man, and asked him: 'Do you have faith in the Messiah?' The man said: 'I would if I knew who he was.' Jesus said: 'I am the Messiah.' Was that not kind of Jesus? Not only did he cure the man but he also helped him to have faith.

Questions: How did Jesus help the blind man? Why did the Pharisees hate Jesus?

John 9:1-41



86 Jesus Resurrects Lazarus

Jesus had three very close friends who lived in Bethany. They were Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. One day, while Jesus was on the other side of the Jordan, Mary and Martha sent him an urgent message: 'Lazarus is very sick. Please come quickly!' But Jesus did not go right away. He waited for two more days and then said to his disciples: 'Let's go to Bethany. Lazarus is sleeping, and I am going to wake him up.' The apostles said: 'If Lazarus is asleep, that will help him to get well.' So Jesus told them clearly: 'Lazarus has died.'

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had already been buried for four days. Crowds of people had come to comfort Martha and Mary. When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she rushed to meet him. She said: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus told her: 'Your brother will live again. Do you believe this, Martha?' She said: 'I believe that he will rise in the resurrection.' Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life."

Then Martha went to Mary and told her: 'Jesus is here.' Mary ran to Jesus, and the crowd followed. She fell down at his feet, and she could not stop crying. She said: 'Lord, if you had been here, our brother would still be alive!' Jesus saw how much she was suffering, and he also began to cry. When the crowd saw his tears, they said: 'See how Jesus loved Lazarus.' But some wondered: 'Why didn't he save his friend?' What would Jesus do next?

Jesus went to the tomb, where a large stone covered the entrance. He commanded: 'Roll the stone away.' Martha said: 'But it has been four days! His body will smell.' Still, they rolled the stone away, and Jesus prayed: 'Father, thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me, but I speak aloud

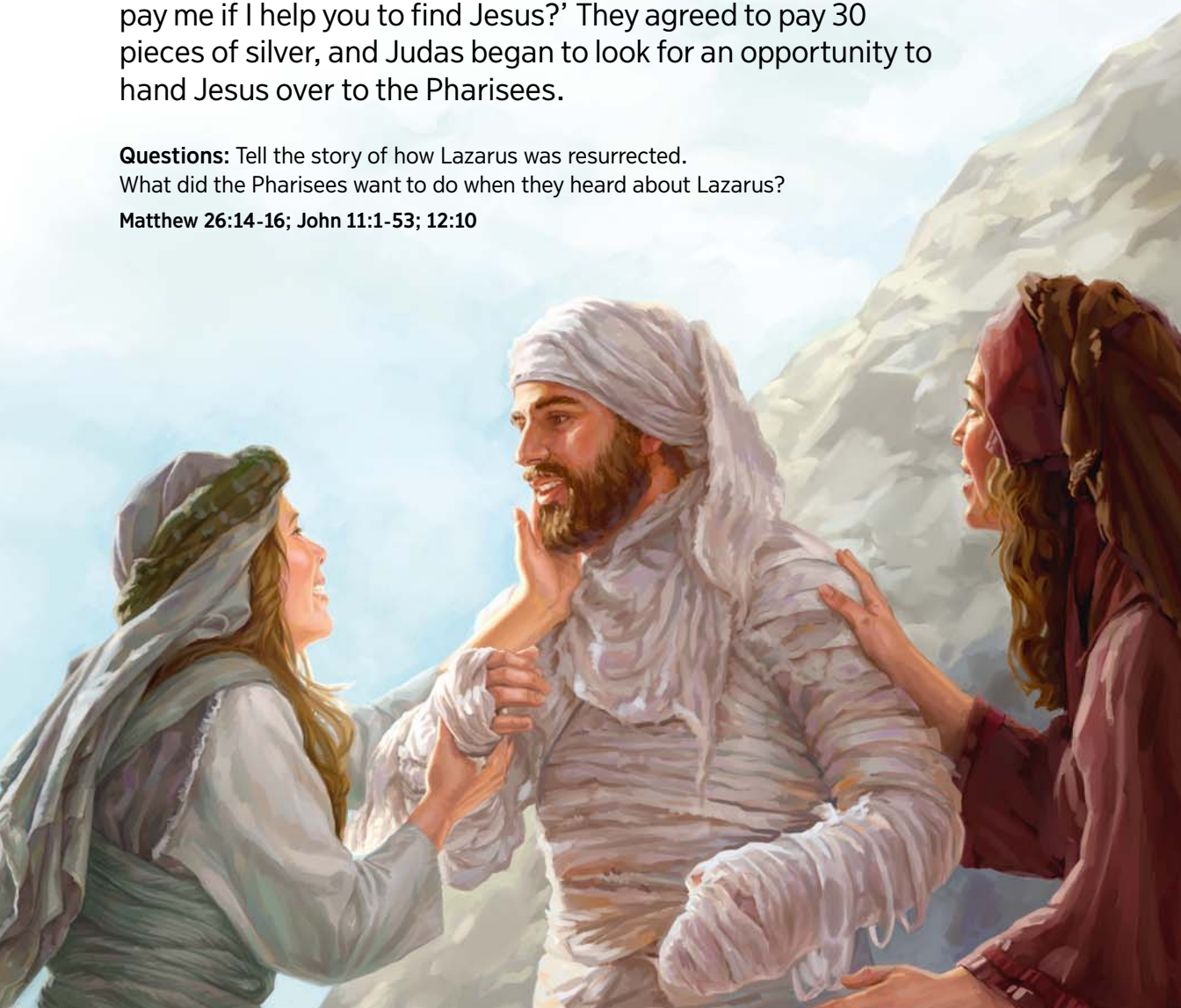
so that these people may know that you sent me.' Then he called out in a loud voice: "Lazarus, come out!" Something amazing happened: Lazarus came out of the tomb, still wrapped in linen cloths. Jesus said: "Free him and let him go."

"The true God is for us a God who saves; and Jehovah the Sovereign Lord provides escape from death." —Psalm 68:20

Many who saw this put faith in Jesus. But some went and told the Pharisees. From then on, the Pharisees wanted to kill both Lazarus and Jesus. One of the 12 apostles, Judas Iscariot, secretly went to the Pharisees and asked: 'How much will you pay me if I help you to find Jesus?' They agreed to pay 30 pieces of silver, and Judas began to look for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to the Pharisees.

Questions: Tell the story of how Lazarus was resurrected. What did the Pharisees want to do when they heard about Lazarus?

Matthew 26:14-16; John 11:1-53; 12:10



13

Jesus came to earth to give his life for imperfect people. Even though he died, he conquered the world. Jehovah was loyal to his Son and brought him back to life. Right up until his death, Jesus humbly served others and forgave them when they made mistakes. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples. He taught them how to do the important work he had given them to do. If you are a parent, help your child to appreciate that we have a part in this same work today.

KEY LESSONS

- There is no problem too big for Jehovah to solve
- Be willing to serve others and help them, as Jesus did
- True Christians can be identified by the love they have for one another

87 Jesus' Last Supper

The Jews celebrated the Passover every year on the 14th day of the month of Nisan. This was to remind them of how Jehovah had set them free from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. In the year 33 C.E., Jesus and his apostles celebrated the Passover in an upper room in Jerusalem. At the end of the meal, Jesus said: 'One of you is going to betray me.' The apostles were shocked, and they asked Jesus: 'Who is it?' Jesus said: 'It is the man to whom I give this bread.' Then he gave a piece of bread to Judas Iscariot. Immediately, Judas got up and left the room.

Jesus then said a prayer, broke some bread into pieces, and handed it to the remaining apostles. He said: 'Eat this bread. It represents my body, which I will give for you.' Then he prayed over some wine and gave it to his apostles. He said: 'Drink this wine. It represents my blood, which I will give so that sins can be forgiven. I promise that you will be kings with me in heaven. Do this every year to remember me.' Jesus' followers still meet together on that evening every year. That meeting is now called the Lord's Evening Meal.

“Have no fear, little flock, for your Father has approved of giving you the Kingdom.”—Luke 12:32

After the meal, the apostles argued over which one of them was the most important. But Jesus told them: ‘The one who is greatest among you is the one who sees himself as the youngest, the least important one.

‘You are my friends. I tell you everything my Father wants me to tell you. Soon I’m going to my Father in heaven. You will remain behind, and people will know that you are my disciples by the love that you have for one another. You must love one another just as I have loved you.’

Finally, Jesus prayed, asking Jehovah to protect all the disciples. He asked Jehovah to help them to work together in peace. He prayed for Jehovah’s name to be sanctified. Then Jesus and his apostles sang praises to Jehovah and went outside. The time was near for Jesus to be arrested.

Questions: What did Jesus promise the apostles? What important lessons did Jesus teach the apostles during his last supper with them?

Matthew 26:20-30; Luke 22:14-26; John 13:1, 2, 26, 30, 34, 35; 15:12-19; 17:3-26

88 Jesus Is Arrested

Jesus and the apostles walked through the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives. It was after midnight, and the moon was full. When they arrived at the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus said to them: "Stay here and keep on the watch." Then Jesus went a little way into the garden and fell on his knees. In great distress, he prayed to Jehovah: "Let your will take place." Then Jehovah sent an angel to encourage Jesus. When Jesus went back to the apostles, he found three of them sleeping. He said: 'Wake up! This is not the time to be sleeping! The hour has come for me to be given into the hands of my enemies.'

Soon Judas arrived, leading a large mob armed with swords and clubs. He knew where to find Jesus because they had often come to this garden. Judas had told the soldiers that he would identify Jesus for them. He went right up to Jesus and said: 'Greetings, Teacher,' and then he kissed him. Jesus said: 'Judas, are you betraying me with a kiss?'

Jesus stepped forward and asked the mob: "Whom are you looking for?" They said: "Jesus the Nazarene." Then he answered: "I am he," and the men drew back and fell to the ground. Again Jesus asked the mob: "Whom are you looking for?" Again they said: "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus answered: 'I told you that I am he. Let these men go.'

When Peter realized what was happening, he pulled out a sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, a slave of the high priest. But Jesus touched the man's ear and healed him. Then he said to Peter: 'Put your sword away. If you fight with a sword, you will die by

a sword.' The soldiers seized Jesus and tied his hands, and the apostles ran away. Then the mob took him to Annas, the chief priest. Annas interrogated Jesus and sent him to the house of High Priest Caiaphas. But what happened to the apostles?

Questions: What happened in the garden of Gethsemane? What can you learn from what Jesus did that night?

Matthew 26:36-57; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-54; John 18:1-14, 19-24

"In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage! I have conquered the world."—John 16:33

89 Peter Denies Jesus

When Jesus was with his apostles in the upper room, he said to them: 'All of you will abandon me tonight.' Peter said: 'Not I! Even if all the others leave you, I will never leave you.' But Jesus told Peter: 'Before a rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me.'

When the soldiers took Jesus to the house of Caiaphas, most of the apostles fled. But two of them followed in the crowd. One of them was Peter. He went into the courtyard of the house of Caiaphas and warmed himself by the fire. In the light, a servant girl saw Peter's face and said: 'I know you! You were with Jesus!'

"The hour . . . has come, when each one of you will be scattered to his own house and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me."—John 16:32

Peter said: 'No, I wasn't! I don't know what you're talking about!' He headed toward the gate. But soon another servant girl saw him and told the crowd: 'This man was with Jesus!' Peter said: 'I don't even know Jesus!' A man said: 'You are one of them! I can tell from your accent that you are from Galilee, like Jesus.' But Peter swore: 'I don't know him!'

At that moment, a rooster crowed. Peter saw Jesus turn and look at him. He remembered Jesus' words, and he went outside and wept bitterly.

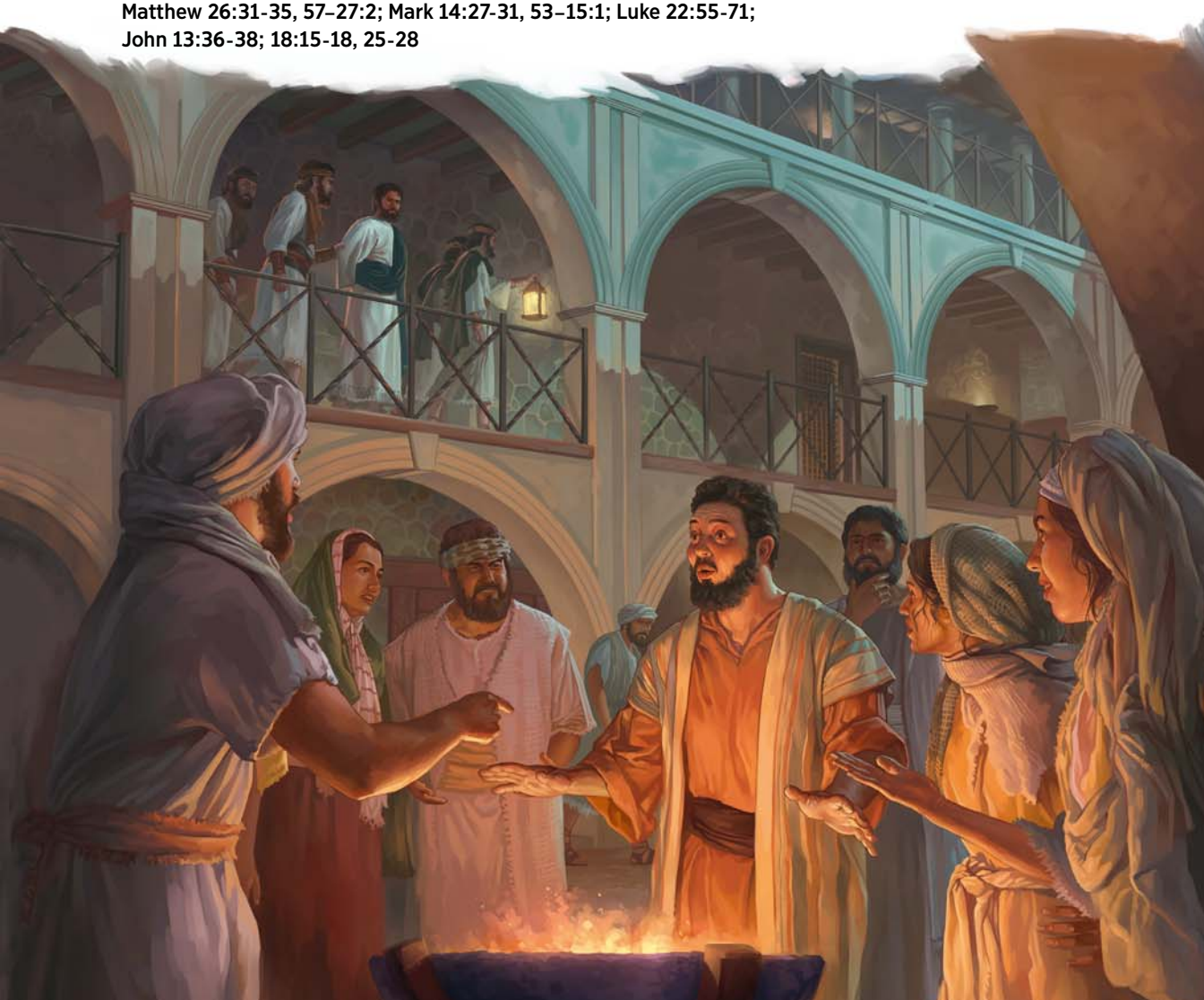
In the meantime, the Sanhedrin convened to put Jesus on trial inside the house of Caiaphas. They had already decided to kill Jesus, and now they were looking for a reason. But they could not find anything against him. Finally, Caiaphas asked Jesus directly: 'Are you the Son of God?' Jesus said: 'I am.' Caiaphas said: 'We don't need any more evidence. This is blasphemy!' The court agreed: 'This man must die.' They

slapped Jesus, spat on him, covered his eyes, and hit him, saying: 'If you are a prophet, tell us who hit you!'

When it became day, they took Jesus to the Sanhedrin hall and asked him again: 'Are you the Son of God?' Jesus answered: 'You are saying that I am.' Then they found him guilty of blasphemy and took him to the palace of Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. What happened next? Let's find out.

Questions: What happened in the courtyard of Caiaphas' house? For what reason did the court condemn Jesus to death?

Matthew 26:31-35, 57–27:2; Mark 14:27-31, 53–15:1; Luke 22:55-71; John 13:36-38; 18:15-18, 25-28



90 Jesus Dies at Golgotha

The chief priests took Jesus to the governor's palace. Pilate asked them: 'What accusation do you have against this man?' They said: 'He claims to be a king!' Pilate asked Jesus: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied: "My Kingdom is no part of this world."

Then Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, the ruler of Galilee, to see if he could find anything against him. Herod could not find anything wrong with Jesus and sent him back to Pilate. Then Pilate told the people: 'Neither Herod nor I find anything against this man. I will set him free.' The crowd shouted: 'Kill him! Kill him!' Soldiers beat Jesus with a whip, spat on him, and hit him. They put a crown of thorns on his head and mockingly said: 'Good day, King of the Jews.' Again Pilate told the crowd: 'I found nothing wrong in this man.' But they shouted: "To the stake with him!" So Pilate handed him over to be executed.

They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, nailed him to a stake, and raised it up. Jesus prayed: 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.' People made fun of Jesus, saying: 'If you are God's Son, come down off that stake! Save yourself.'

One of the criminals hanging next to him said: "Remember me when you get into your Kingdom." Jesus promised him: "You will be with me in Paradise." In the afternoon, a darkness that lasted for three hours fell over the land. Some of the disciples stood near the stake, including Mary, Jesus' mother. Jesus told John to take care of Mary as if she were his own mother.

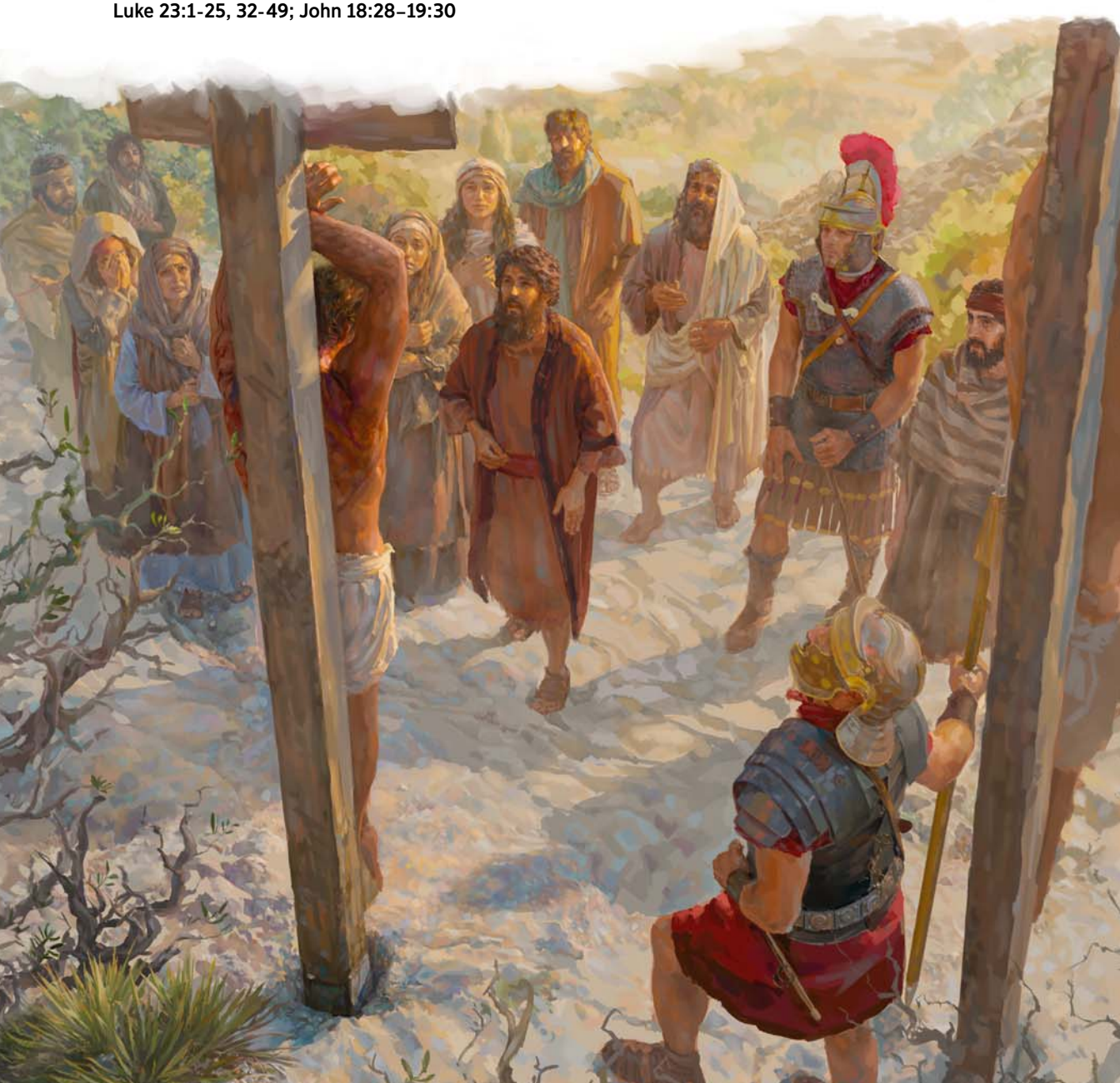
Finally, Jesus said: "It has been accomplished!" He bowed his head and took his last breath. At that moment, there was a powerful earthquake. In the temple, the heavy curtain

between the Holy and the Most Holy was ripped in half. An army officer said: 'This really was God's Son.'

"No matter how many the promises of God are, they have become 'yes' by means of him."
—2 Corinthians 1:20

Questions: Why did Pilate allow Jesus to be killed?
How did Jesus show that he cared more about others than about himself?

Matthew 27:11-14, 22-31, 38-56; Mark 15:2-5, 12-18, 25, 29-33, 37-39; Luke 23:1-25, 32-49; John 18:28–19:30



91 Jesus Is Resurrected

After Jesus died, a wealthy man named Joseph asked Pilate to let him take Jesus' body down from the stake. Joseph wrapped the body in fine linen and spices and laid it in a new tomb. He had a heavy stone rolled in front of the entrance. The chief priests told Pilate: 'We are afraid that some of Jesus' disciples will take his body and say that he has come back to life.' So Pilate told them: 'Seal the tomb and guard it.'

Three days later, early in the morning, some women went to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away. Inside the tomb, an angel told the women: 'Don't be afraid. Jesus has been raised up. Go and tell his disciples to meet him in Galilee.'

Mary Magdalene hurried to find Peter and John. She told them: 'Someone has taken Jesus' body!' Peter and John ran back to the tomb. When they saw that it was empty, they went back to their homes.

When Mary returned to the tomb, she saw two angels inside and said to them: 'I don't know where they have taken my Lord.' Then she saw a man, and thinking that he was the gardener, she said: 'Sir, please tell me where you have taken him.' But when the man said, "Mary!" she knew that he was Jesus. She cried out: "Teacher!" and held onto him. Jesus told her: 'Go and tell my brothers that you have seen me.' Right away, Mary ran to the disciples and told them that she had seen Jesus.

Later in the day, two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. A man joined them on the road and asked what they were talking about. They said: 'Haven't you heard? Three days ago, the chief priests put Jesus to death. Now some women are saying that he is alive!' The man asked: 'Don't you believe the prophets? They said that the Christ would die and

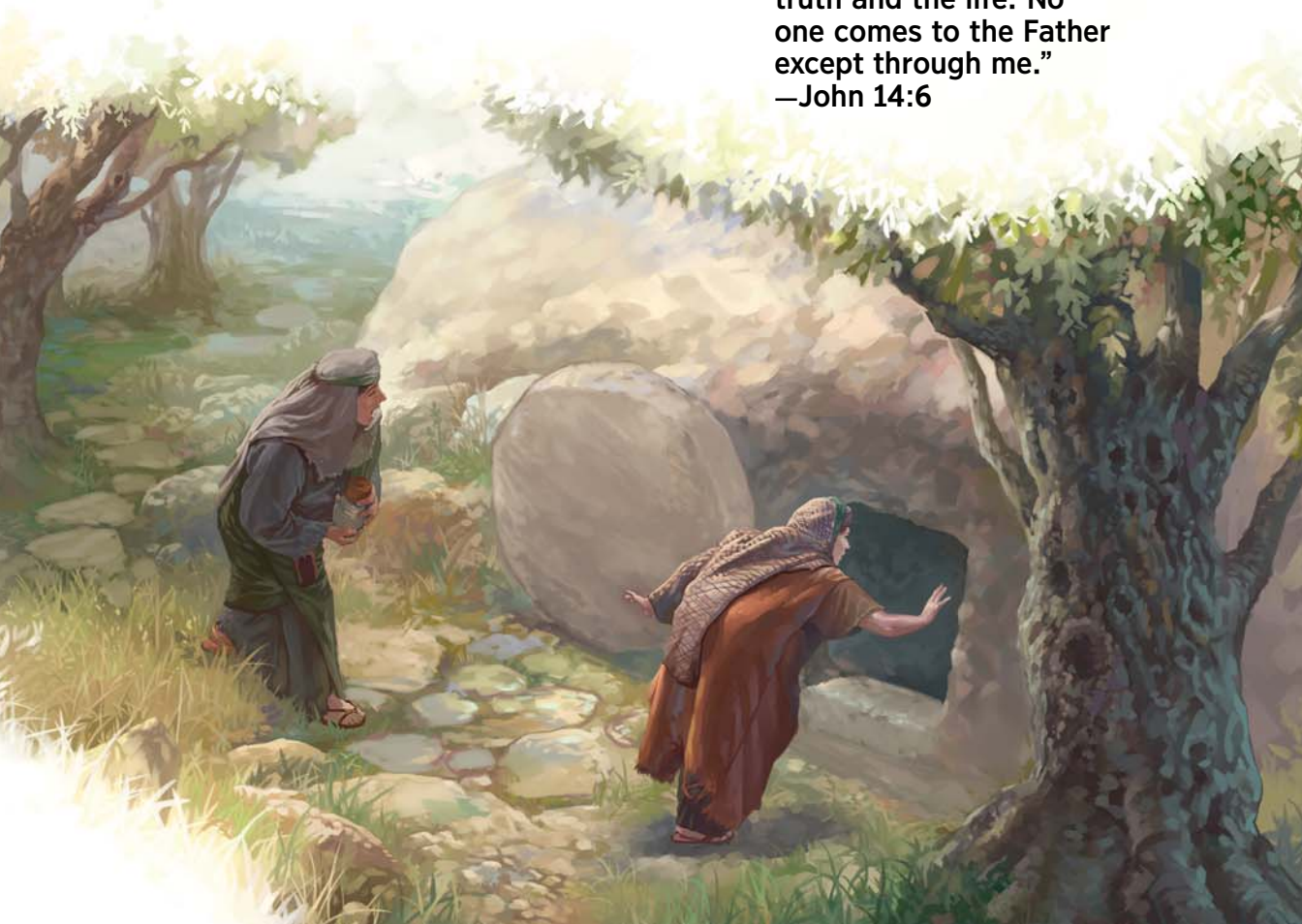
then be raised up.' He continued to explain the Scriptures to them. When they reached Emmaus, the disciples asked the man to come with them. At supper after he prayed over the bread, they realized that he was Jesus. Then he disappeared.

The two disciples hurried to the house in Jerusalem where the apostles were gathered and told them what had happened. While they were there, inside the house, Jesus appeared to all of them. At first, the apostles couldn't believe that it was Jesus. Then he said: 'Look at my hands; touch me. It was written that the Christ would rise from the dead.'

Questions: What happened when the women went to Jesus' tomb? What happened on the way to Emmaus?

Matthew 27:57–28:10; Mark 15:42–16:8; Luke 23:50–24:43; John 19:38–20:23

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." —John 14:6

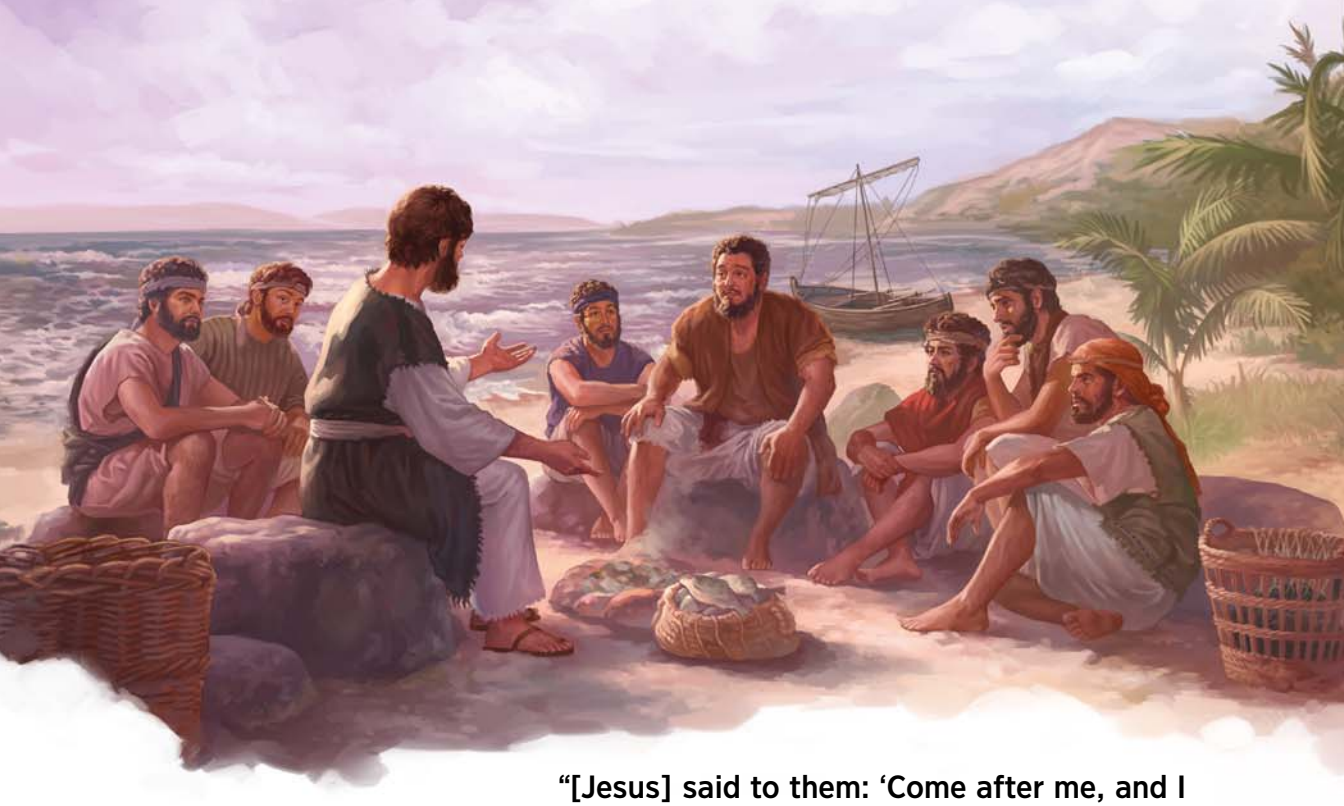


92 Jesus Appears to the Fishermen

Some time after Jesus appeared to the apostles, Peter decided to go fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Thomas, James, John, and some other disciples went with him. All night long they fished but did not catch anything.

Early the next morning, they saw a man standing on the shore. He called to them across the water: 'Did you catch any fish?' They told him: "No!" The man said: "Cast your net on the right side of the boat." When they did that, the net became filled with so many fish that they could not pull it aboard. John suddenly realized that the man was Jesus and said: "It is the Lord!" Immediately, Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore. The other disciples followed in the boat.

When they arrived at the beach, they saw bread and fish cooking on a fire. Jesus told them to bring some of their



"[Jesus] said to them: 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they abandoned their nets and followed him." —Matthew 4:19, 20

fish to add to the meal. Then he said: 'Come and have breakfast.'

After they finished breakfast, Jesus asked Peter: 'Do you love me more than fishing?' Peter said: 'Yes, Lord, you know I do.' Jesus said: 'Then feed my lambs.' Jesus again asked: 'Peter, do you love me?' Peter said: 'Lord, you know I do.' Jesus said: "Shepherd my little sheep." Jesus asked a third time. Peter felt very sad. He said: 'Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.' Jesus said: "Feed my little sheep." Then he told Peter: "Continue following me."

Questions: What miracle did Jesus do for the fishermen?
Why, do you think, did Jesus three times ask Peter: "Do you love me?"

John 21:1-19, 25; Acts 1:1-3

93 Jesus Returns to Heaven

In Galilee, Jesus met with his followers. He gave them a very important command: ‘Go and make disciples of people from all lands. Teach them the things I taught you, and baptize them.’ Then he promised: ‘Remember, I will always be with you.’

During the 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to hundreds of his disciples in Galilee and Jerusalem. He taught them important lessons and performed many miracles. Then Jesus met with his apostles for the last time, on the Mount of Olives. He said: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem. Keep waiting for what the Father has promised.’

His apostles didn’t understand what he meant. They asked him: ‘Are you now going to become King of Israel?’ Jesus said: ‘It is not yet Jehovah’s time for me to become King. Soon you will receive power from holy spirit, and you will be my witnesses. Go preach in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth.’

Then Jesus was lifted up into the sky and a cloud covered him. His disciples kept looking up, but he was gone.

The disciples left the Mount of Olives and went to Jerusalem. They regularly met together in an upper room and prayed. They were waiting for Jesus to give them further instructions.

Questions: What command did Jesus give to his disciples? What happened on the Mount of Olives?

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:49-53; John 20:30, 31; Acts 1:2-14; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

“This good news of the Kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”—Matthew 24:14

14

The early Christians spread the good news of the Kingdom to the most distant part of the earth. Jesus directed them where to preach and miraculously enabled them to teach people in their own languages. Jehovah gave them boldness and the power to overcome vicious persecution.

Jesus gave the apostle John a vision of Jehovah's glory. In another vision, John saw the Kingdom of the heavens conquer Satan and end his domination forever. John saw Jesus ruling as King and his 144,000 corulers with him. John also saw the whole earth become a paradise where everyone worships Jehovah in peace and unity.

KEY LESSONS

- Doing the work that Jehovah has given us to do brings glory to him
- Dedicate your life to Jehovah, and show him that you want to be ruled by his Kingdom
- Make Jehovah your best Friend

94 The Disciples Receive Holy Spirit

Ten days after Jesus returned to heaven, his disciples received holy spirit. It was Pentecost 33 C.E., and people had come to Jerusalem from many places to celebrate. There were about 120 disciples of Jesus gathered in the upper room of a house. Suddenly, an amazing thing happened. Something like a flame appeared over the head of each disciple, and they all began speaking in different languages. A loud sound like a windstorm filled the house.

Visitors from other lands who had come to Jerusalem heard the sound and ran to the house to see what was happening. They were amazed when they heard the disciples speaking these languages. They said: ‘But these people are from Galilee. How are they able to speak in our languages?’

Then Peter and the other apostles stood in front of the crowd. Peter told the people how Jesus was killed and that

Jehovah raised him from the dead. Peter said: ‘Now Jesus is in heaven at the right hand of God, and he has poured out the promised holy spirit. That is why you have seen and heard these miracles.’

“If you publicly declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and exercise faith in your heart that God raised him up from the dead, you will be saved.”—Romans 10:9

The people were deeply moved by Peter’s words, and they asked: “What should we do?” He told them: ‘Repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus. You will also receive the gift of the holy spirit.’ On that day, about 3,000 people got baptized. From then on, the disciples began increasing in Jerusalem very quickly. With the help of the holy spirit, the apostles formed more congregations so that they could teach the disciples all the things that Jesus had commanded them.

Questions: What happened at Pentecost 33 C.E.? Why did so many people get baptized?

Acts 1:15; 2:1-42; 4:4; John 15:26

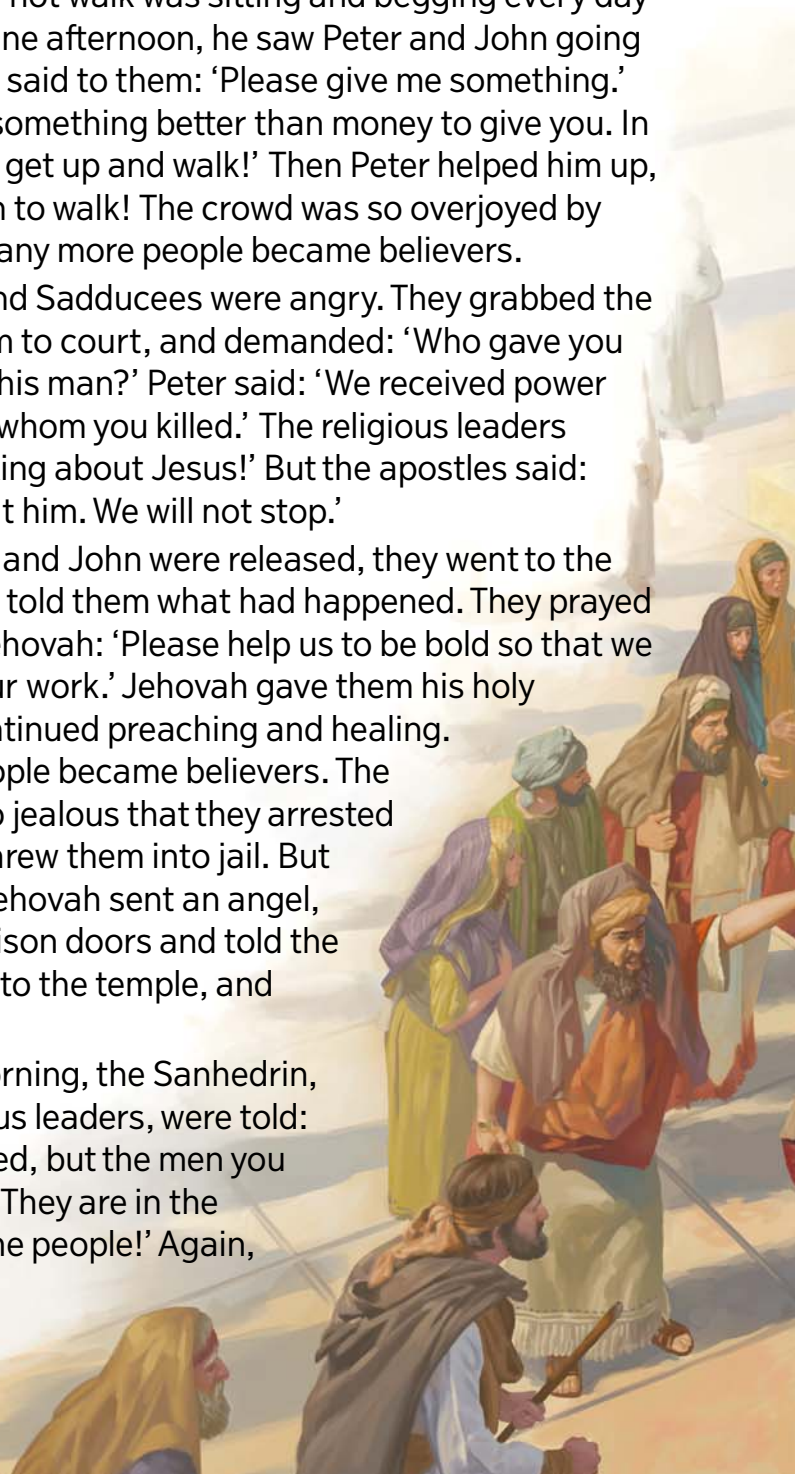
95 Nothing Could Stop Them

A man who could not walk was sitting and begging every day at a temple gate. One afternoon, he saw Peter and John going into the temple. He said to them: ‘Please give me something.’ Peter said: ‘I have something better than money to give you. In the name of Jesus, get up and walk!’ Then Peter helped him up, and the man began to walk! The crowd was so overjoyed by this miracle that many more people became believers.

But the priests and Sadducees were angry. They grabbed the apostles, took them to court, and demanded: ‘Who gave you the power to heal this man?’ Peter said: ‘We received power from Jesus Christ, whom you killed.’ The religious leaders shouted: ‘Stop talking about Jesus!’ But the apostles said: ‘We must talk about him. We will not stop.’

As soon as Peter and John were released, they went to the other disciples and told them what had happened. They prayed together, asking Jehovah: ‘Please help us to be bold so that we can keep doing your work.’ Jehovah gave them his holy spirit, and they continued preaching and healing. More and more people became believers. The Sadducees were so jealous that they arrested the apostles and threw them into jail. But during the night, Jehovah sent an angel, who opened the prison doors and told the apostles: ‘Go back to the temple, and teach there.’

The very next morning, the Sanhedrin, the court of religious leaders, were told: ‘The jail is still locked, but the men you arrested are gone! They are in the temple, teaching the people!’ Again,

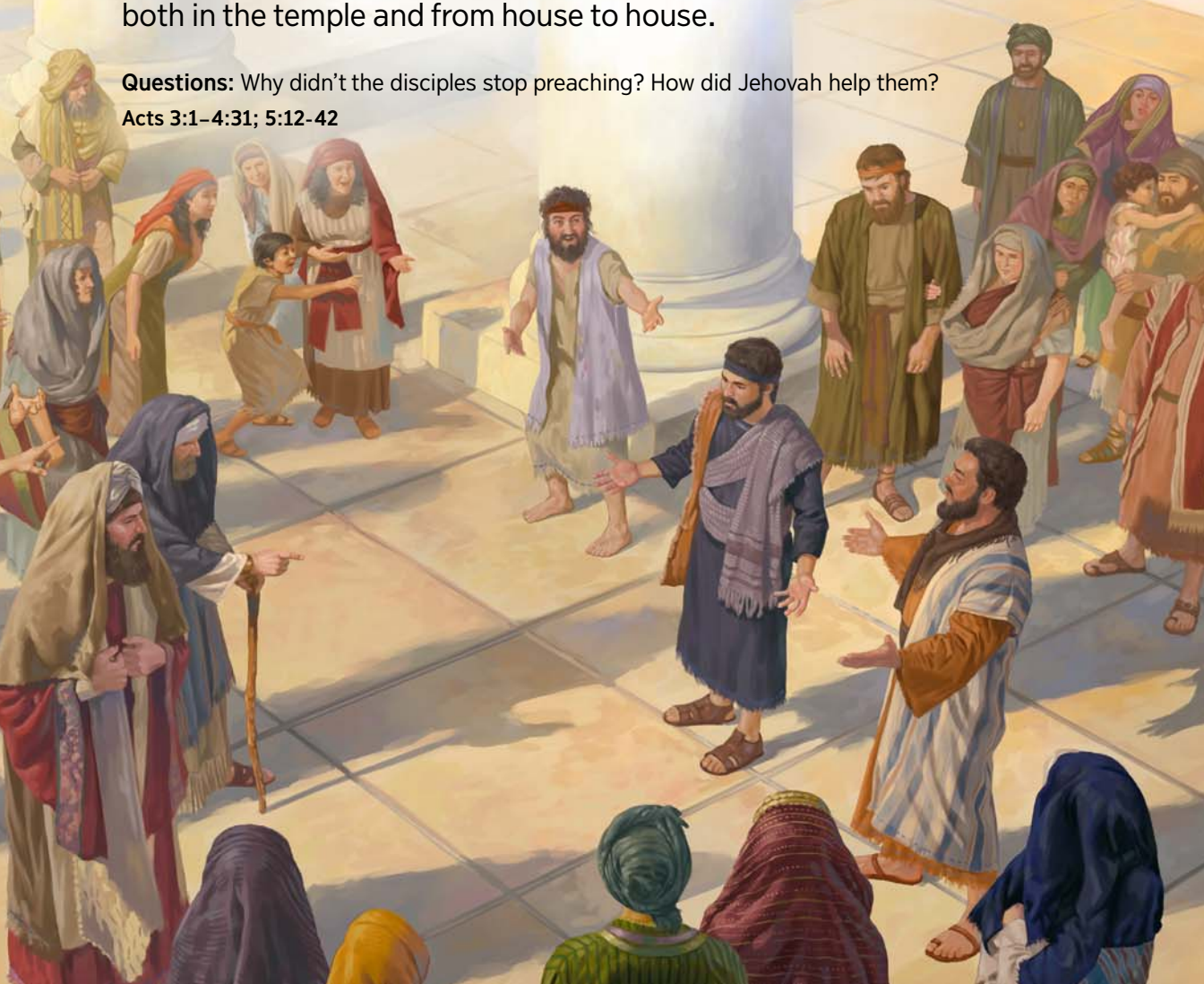


"We must obey God as ruler rather than men." —Acts 5:29

the apostles were arrested and brought to the Sanhedrin. The high priest said: 'We ordered you not to talk about Jesus!' But Peter answered: "We must obey God as ruler rather than men."

The religious leaders were so angry that they wanted to kill the apostles. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel stood up and said: 'Be careful! God might be with these men. Do you really want to fight against God?' They took his advice. After beating the apostles with rods, they ordered them once again to stop preaching, and then they let them go. But that did not stop the apostles. They continued boldly preaching the good news, both in the temple and from house to house.

Questions: Why didn't the disciples stop preaching? How did Jehovah help them?
Acts 3:1–4:31; 5:12-42



96 Jesus Chooses Saul

Saul was a Roman citizen who was born in Tarsus. He was a Pharisee who was an expert in Jewish Law, and he hated Christians. He dragged Christian men and women out of their houses and threw them into jail. He even stood by and watched as an angry mob stoned the disciple Stephen to death.

But Saul was not satisfied with arresting Christians in Jerusalem only. He asked the high priest to send him to the city of Damascus so that he could hunt down Christians there. As Saul got near the city, a bright light suddenly flashed all around him, and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice say: 'Saul, why are you persecuting me?' Saul asked: 'Who are you?' The answer: 'I am Jesus. Go into Damascus, and you will learn what you must do.' In an instant, Saul had become blind, and he had to be led by the hand into the city.

In Damascus, there was a faithful Christian named Ananias. Jesus told him in a vision: 'Go to the house of Judas on the street called Straight, and look for Saul.' Ananias said: 'Lord, I know all about that man! He is throwing your disciples into prison!' But Jesus said: 'Go to him. I have chosen Saul to preach the good news to many nations.'

So Ananias found Saul and told him: 'Saul, brother, Jesus has sent me to open your eyes.' Instantly, Saul could see again. He learned about Jesus and became his follower. Now baptized as a Christian, Saul began to preach in the synagogues, along with his fellow

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these, I am foremost." —1 Timothy 1:15

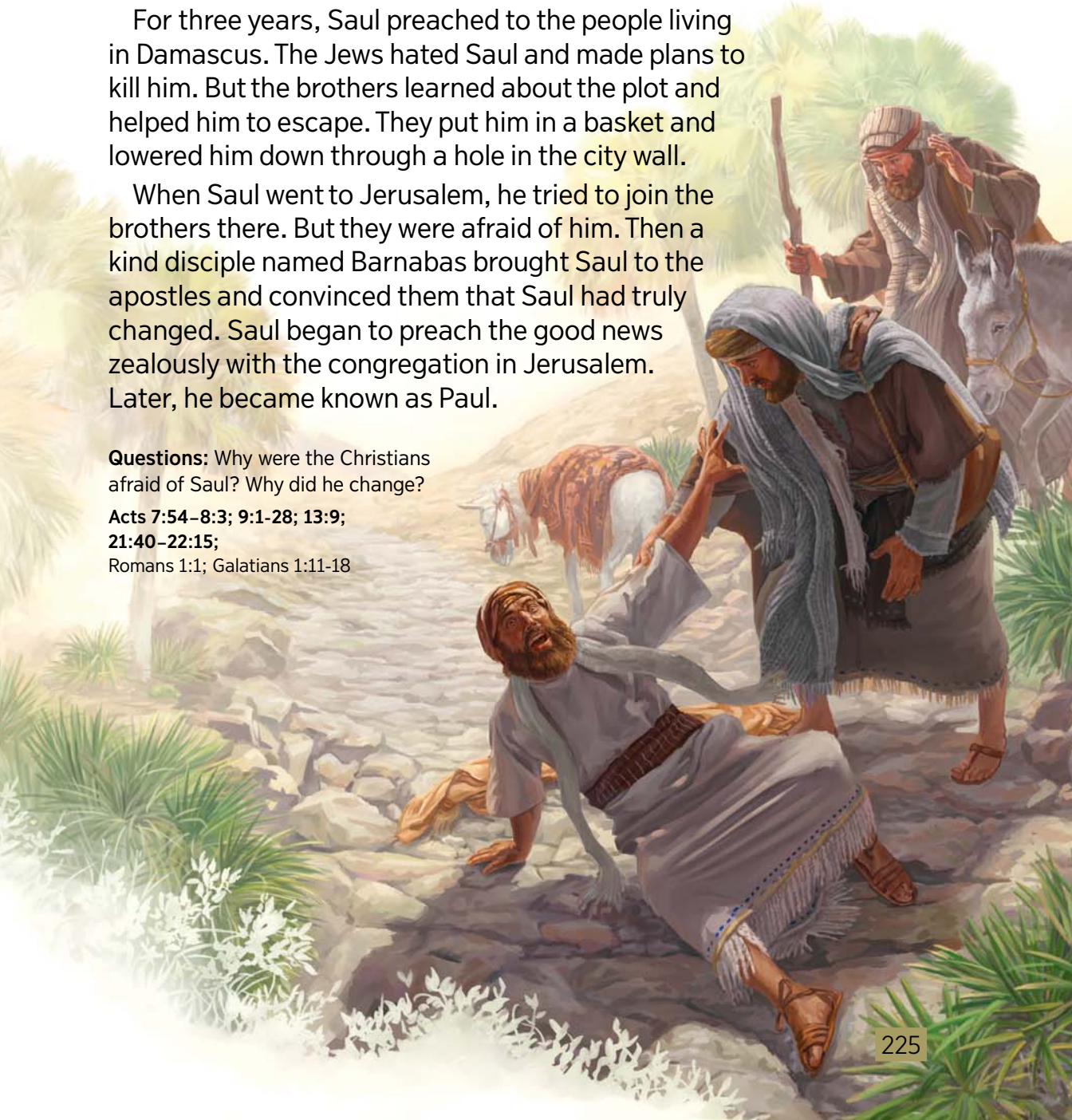
Christians. Can you imagine how shocked the Jews were to see Saul teaching people about Jesus? They said: 'Isn't this the same man who used to hunt down Jesus' disciples?'

For three years, Saul preached to the people living in Damascus. The Jews hated Saul and made plans to kill him. But the brothers learned about the plot and helped him to escape. They put him in a basket and lowered him down through a hole in the city wall.

When Saul went to Jerusalem, he tried to join the brothers there. But they were afraid of him. Then a kind disciple named Barnabas brought Saul to the apostles and convinced them that Saul had truly changed. Saul began to preach the good news zealously with the congregation in Jerusalem. Later, he became known as Paul.

Questions: Why were the Christians afraid of Saul? Why did he change?

Acts 7:54–8:3; 9:1-28; 13:9; 21:40–22:15;
Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:11-18



97 Cornelius Receives Holy Spirit

In Caesarea, there was an important Roman army officer named Cornelius. Although he was not a Jew, the Jews respected him. He generously helped poor and needy people. Cornelius believed in Jehovah and prayed to him continually. One day, an angel appeared to Cornelius and said: ‘God has heard your prayers. Now send men to the city of Joppa, where Peter is staying, and ask him to come to you.’ Immediately, Cornelius sent three men to Joppa, about 30 miles to the south.

Meanwhile, in Joppa, Peter had a vision. He saw animals that Jews were not allowed to eat, and he heard a voice telling him to eat. Peter refused, saying: ‘But I have never eaten an unclean animal in my life.’ The voice then told him: ‘Do not call these animals unclean. God has made them clean.’ Peter was also told: ‘There are three men at your door. Go with them.’ Peter went to the door and asked the men why they were there. They answered: ‘We have been sent by Cornelius, a Roman army officer. You are to come to his house in Caesarea.’ Peter

invited the men to stay overnight as his guests. The next day, he went with them to Caesarea, together with some brothers from Joppa.

"In every nation the man who fears [God] and does what is right is acceptable to him." —Acts 10:35

When at last Cornelius saw Peter, he got down on his knees. But Peter said: 'Get up! I am a man just like you. God told me to come to your house, even though Jews do not go into the homes of Gentiles. Now please tell me why you sent for me.'

Cornelius told Peter: 'Four days ago I was praying to God, and an angel told me to send for you. Please teach us the words of Jehovah.' Peter said: 'I have learned that God is not partial. He accepts anyone who wants to worship him.' Peter taught them many things about Jesus. Then holy spirit came upon Cornelius and those who were there with him, and all of them were baptized.

Questions: Why did Peter refuse to eat unclean animals? Why did Jehovah tell Peter to go to the house of a Gentile?

Acts 10:1-48

98 Christianity Spreads to Many Nations

The apostles obeyed Jesus' command to spread the good news in all the earth. In 47 C.E., the brothers in Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas on a preaching tour. The two zealous preachers traveled all over Asia Minor to such places as Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium.

Paul and Barnabas preached to everyone, whether rich or poor, young or old. Many people accepted the truth about Christ. When Paul and Barnabas preached to Sergius Paulus, the governor of Cyprus, a sorcerer tried to stop them. Paul told the sorcerer: 'Jehovah is against you.' Instantly, the sorcerer went blind. At seeing that, Governor Paulus became a believer.

Paul and Barnabas preached everywhere, from house to house, in markets, on the road, and in synagogues. When they healed a lame man in Lystra, those who witnessed the miracle thought they were gods and tried to worship them. But Paul and Barnabas stopped them, saying: 'Worship only God! We are just men.' Then certain Jews came and turned the crowd against Paul. The crowd stoned him, dragged him outside the city, and left him for dead. However, Paul was still alive! Right away, the brothers came to his rescue and took him back into the city. Later, Paul returned to Antioch.

In 49 C.E., Paul went on another tour. After returning to see the brothers in Asia Minor, he took the good news even farther,

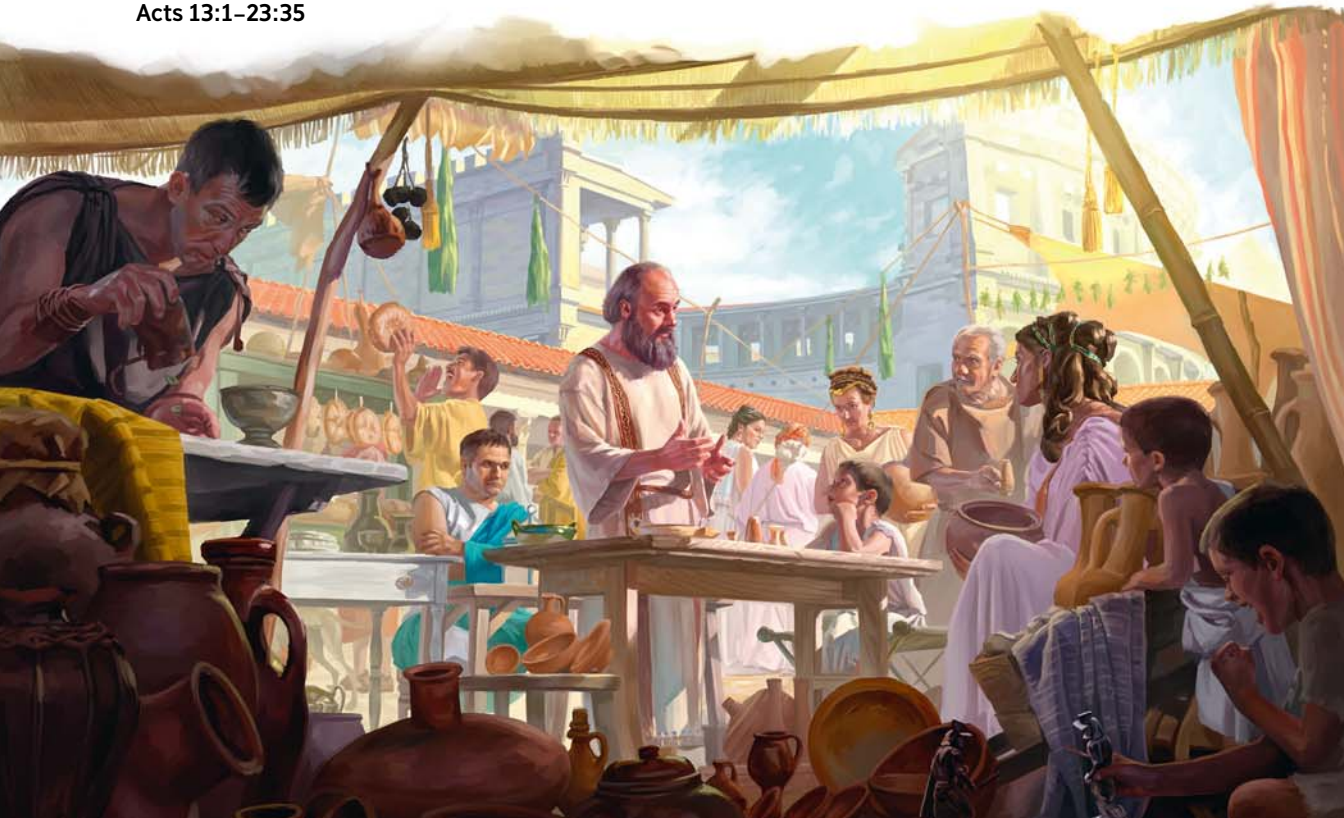
"Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations."—Matthew 28:19

into Europe. He went to Athens, Ephesus, Philippi, Thessalonica, and other places. Silas, Luke, and a young man named Timothy joined Paul on his journey. They worked together to form congregations and help them become strong. Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, strengthening the brothers there. He preached, taught, and wrote letters to many congregations. He also did work as a tentmaker. In time, Paul returned to Antioch.

Later, in 52 C.E., Paul went on a third tour, starting in Asia Minor. He traveled as far north as Philippi and then down into Corinth. Paul spent several years in Ephesus, teaching, healing, and helping the congregation. He also gave public talks every day in a school auditorium. Many people listened and changed their ways. Finally, after preaching the good news in many lands, Paul went to Jerusalem.

Questions: Using the map in your Bible (*New World Translation,* Appendix B13), can you follow Paul's preaching tours?

Acts 13:1–23:35



99 A Jailer Learns the Truth

In Philippi, there was a slave girl who had a demon inside of her. The demon used the girl as a fortune-teller, and she made a lot of money for her owners that way. When Paul and Silas came to Philippi, she followed them around for many days. The demon made her shout: "These men are slaves of the Most High God." Finally, Paul told the demon: 'In the name of Jesus, come out of her!' The demon left the girl.

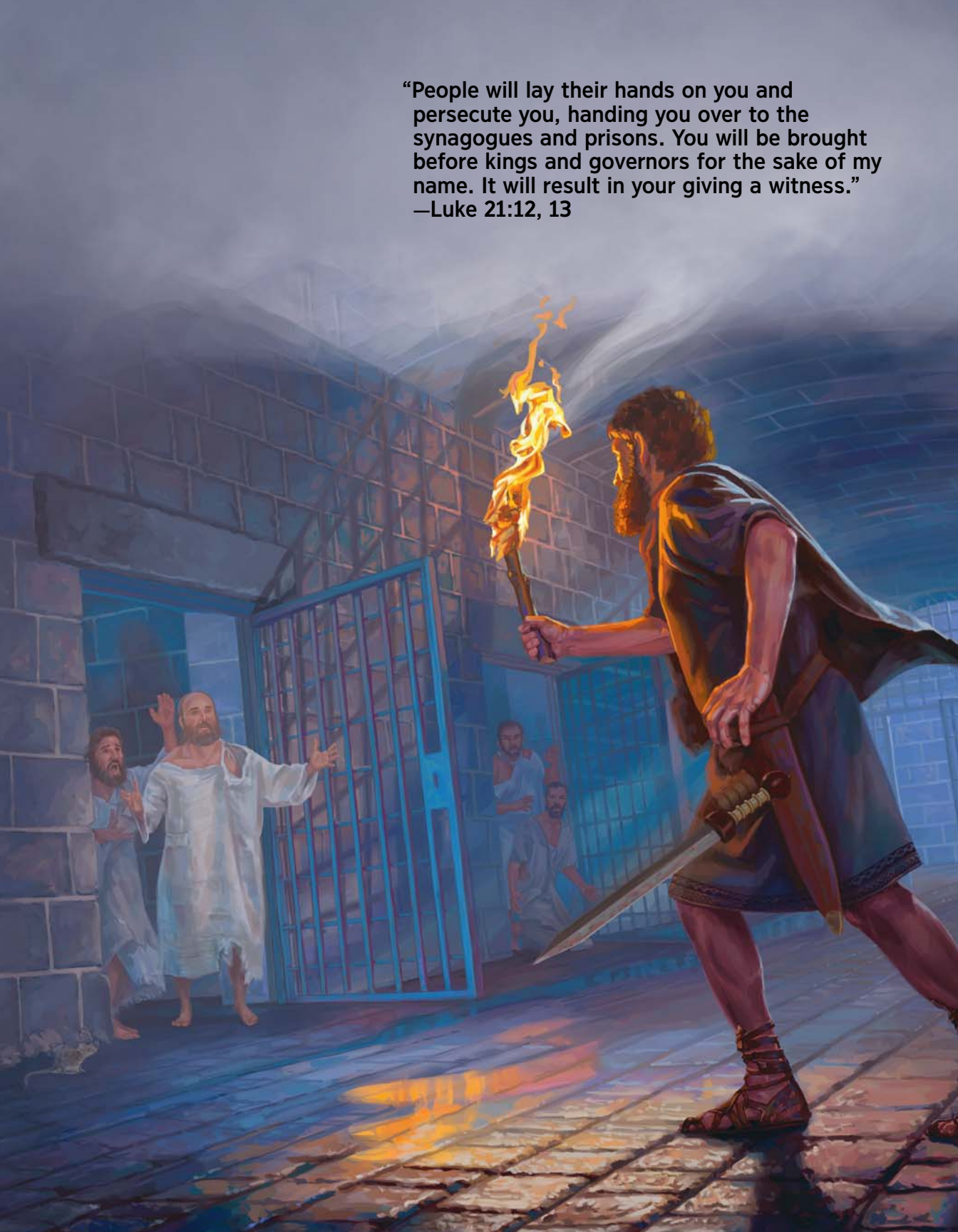
When the girl's owners realized that they would no longer make money from her, they were very angry. They dragged Paul and Silas to the civil magistrates, saying: 'These men are breaking the law and upsetting the whole city!' The magistrates ordered that Paul and Silas be beaten and thrown in jail. The jailer threw them into the deepest, darkest part of the prison and put them in stocks.

While the other prisoners listened, Paul and Silas sang praises to Jehovah. Suddenly, in the middle of the night, a powerful earthquake shook the prison from top to bottom. The prison doors burst open, and the prisoners' chains and stocks came loose. The jailer rushed to the inner prison and saw that the doors were open. Certain that all the prisoners had escaped, he took a sword to kill himself.

Just then, Paul called out: 'Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!' The jailer rushed in and fell down before Paul and Silas. He asked them: "What must I do to get saved?" They told him: 'You and your household need to believe in Jesus.' Then Paul and Silas taught them the word of Jehovah, and the jailer and all his household got baptized.

Questions: Why were Paul and Silas thrown into prison?
How did the jailer learn the truth?

Acts 16:16-34



“People will lay their hands on you and persecute you, handing you over to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors for the sake of my name. It will result in your giving a witness.” —Luke 21:12, 13

100 Paul and Timothy

Timothy was a young brother in the congregation at Lystra. His father was Greek, and his mother was Jewish. His mother, Eunice, and grandmother Lois taught Timothy about Jehovah from the time he was little.

When Paul visited Lystra during his second preaching tour, he noticed that Timothy really loved the brothers and was eager to help them. Paul invited Timothy to join him on his journey. Over time, Paul trained Timothy to be a fine preacher and teacher of the good news.

Holy spirit guided Paul and Timothy wherever they went. One night, in a vision, a man told Paul to come to Macedonia and help them. So Paul, Timothy, Silas, and Luke went there to preach and to form congregations.

In the Macedonian city of Thessalonica, many men and women became Christians. But some of the Jews were jealous of Paul and his companions. They rounded up a mob and dragged the brothers to the city rulers, shouting: ‘These men are enemies of the Roman government!’ Paul’s and Timothy’s lives were in danger, so they fled to Beroea during the night.

The people in Beroea were eager to learn the good news, and both Greeks and Jews there became believers. But when some Jews came from Thessalonica and stirred up trouble, Paul left for Athens. Timothy and Silas stayed in Beroea to strengthen the brothers. In time, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to help the brothers deal with the intense persecution there.

"I have no one else of a disposition like his who will genuinely care for your concerns. For all the others are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."
—Philippians 2:20, 21

Later, Paul sent Timothy to visit many other congregations and encourage them.

Paul told Timothy: 'Those who want to serve Jehovah will be persecuted.' Timothy was persecuted and imprisoned for his faith. He was happy for the opportunity to prove his loyalty to Jehovah.

Paul told the Philippians: 'I am sending Timothy to you. He will teach you what it means to walk in the truth, and he will train you in the ministry.' Paul knew that he could rely on Timothy. They worked together as friends and fellow servants for many years.

Questions: Who was Timothy? Why were Paul and Timothy such good friends?
Acts 16:1-12; 17:1-15; Philippians 2:19-22; 2 Timothy 1:1-5; 3:12, 14, 15; Hebrews 13:23

101 Paul Is Sent to Rome

Paul's third preaching tour ended in Jerusalem. There he was arrested and thrown into prison. In a vision during the night, Jesus told him: 'You will go to Rome and preach there.' Paul was taken from Jerusalem to Caesarea, where he spent two years in prison. When he was on trial before Governor Festus, Paul said: 'Let me be judged by Caesar, in Rome.' Festus said: "To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you will go." Paul was put on a ship bound for Rome, and two Christian brothers, Luke and Aristarchus, went with him.

At sea, they were caught in a violent storm, which went on for many days. Everyone thought that they were going to die. But Paul said: 'Men, an angel told me in a dream: "Don't be afraid, Paul. You will get to Rome, and everyone on the ship with you will be safe." Take courage! We will not die.'

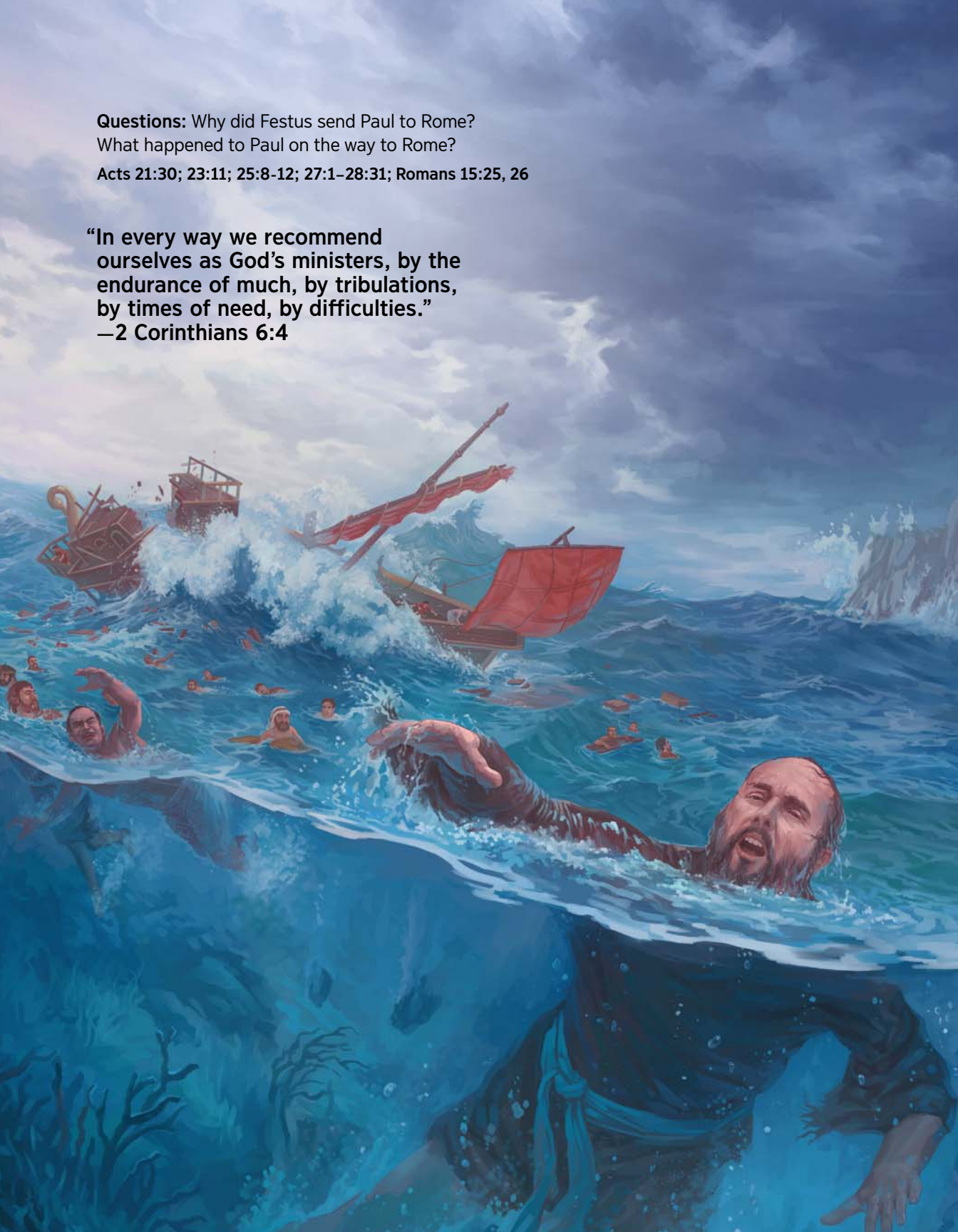
The storm raged for 14 days. Finally, land appeared. It was the island of Malta. The ship ran aground and broke into pieces, but all 276 people on the ship made it safely to land. Some swam and others held onto pieces of the ship and floated to shore. The people of Malta took care of them and built a fire to warm them.

Three months later, the soldiers took Paul to Rome on another ship. When he arrived, the brothers came to meet him. On seeing them, Paul thanked Jehovah and took courage. Even though Paul was a prisoner, he was allowed to live in a rented house while being guarded by a soldier. He stayed there for two years. People came to see him, and he preached to them about God's Kingdom and taught them about Jesus. Paul also wrote letters to the congregations in Asia Minor and Judea. Jehovah truly used Paul to spread the good news to the nations.

Questions: Why did Festus send Paul to Rome? What happened to Paul on the way to Rome?

Acts 21:30; 23:11; 25:8-12; 27:1–28:31; Romans 15:25, 26

"In every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by times of need, by difficulties." —2 Corinthians 6:4



102 The Revelation to John

While the apostle John was a prisoner on the island of Patmos, Jesus showed him a series of 16 visions, or pictures, of the future. These visions revealed how Jehovah's name would be sanctified, his Kingdom would come, and his will would take place on earth as in heaven.

In one vision, John sees Jehovah on his glorious throne in heaven, surrounded by 24 elders in white clothes and on their heads are golden crowns. Flashes of lightning and sounds of thunder come from the throne. The 24 elders bow down before Jehovah and worship him. In another vision, John sees a great crowd from all nations, peoples, and languages who worship Jehovah. The Lamb, who is Jesus, shepherds them and takes them to waters of life. Later, in another vision, Jesus begins to rule as King in heaven, along with the 24 elders. In the following vision, John sees Jesus battle the dragon, who is Satan, and his demons. Jesus throws them out of heaven, down to the earth.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head, and you will strike him in the heel."—Genesis 3:15

Then John sees a beautiful picture of the Lamb and the 144,000 standing on Mount Zion. He also sees an angel flying around the earth, telling people to fear God and give Him glory.

In the next vision, the war of Armageddon is fought. During that war, Jesus and his army conquer Satan's evil system. In the last vision, John sees perfect harmony in the heavens and on the earth. Satan and his offspring are completely destroyed. Everyone in heaven and on earth treats Jehovah's name as holy and worships only him.

Questions: How many visions did John see? What will Jesus do in the war of Armageddon?

Revelation 1:1-3; 4:1-11; 7:4, 9-17; 11:15-18; 12:5-12; 14:6, 7; 16:14, 16; 21:5

103 “Let Your Kingdom Come”

Jehovah promised: ‘There will be no more crying, pain, sickness, or death. I will wipe away every tear from their eyes. All bad things from the past will be forgotten.’

Jehovah put Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden to live in peace and happiness. They were to worship their heavenly Father and fill the earth with their children. Adam and Eve disobeyed Jehovah, but his purpose never changed. In this book we have seen that everything God promises comes true. His Kingdom will bring wonderful blessings to the earth, just as he promised Abraham.

Soon Satan, his demons, and all bad people will be gone. Everyone alive will worship Jehovah. We will not get sick or die. Instead, we will wake up each day full of energy and happy to

“You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things.”—Revelation 4:11

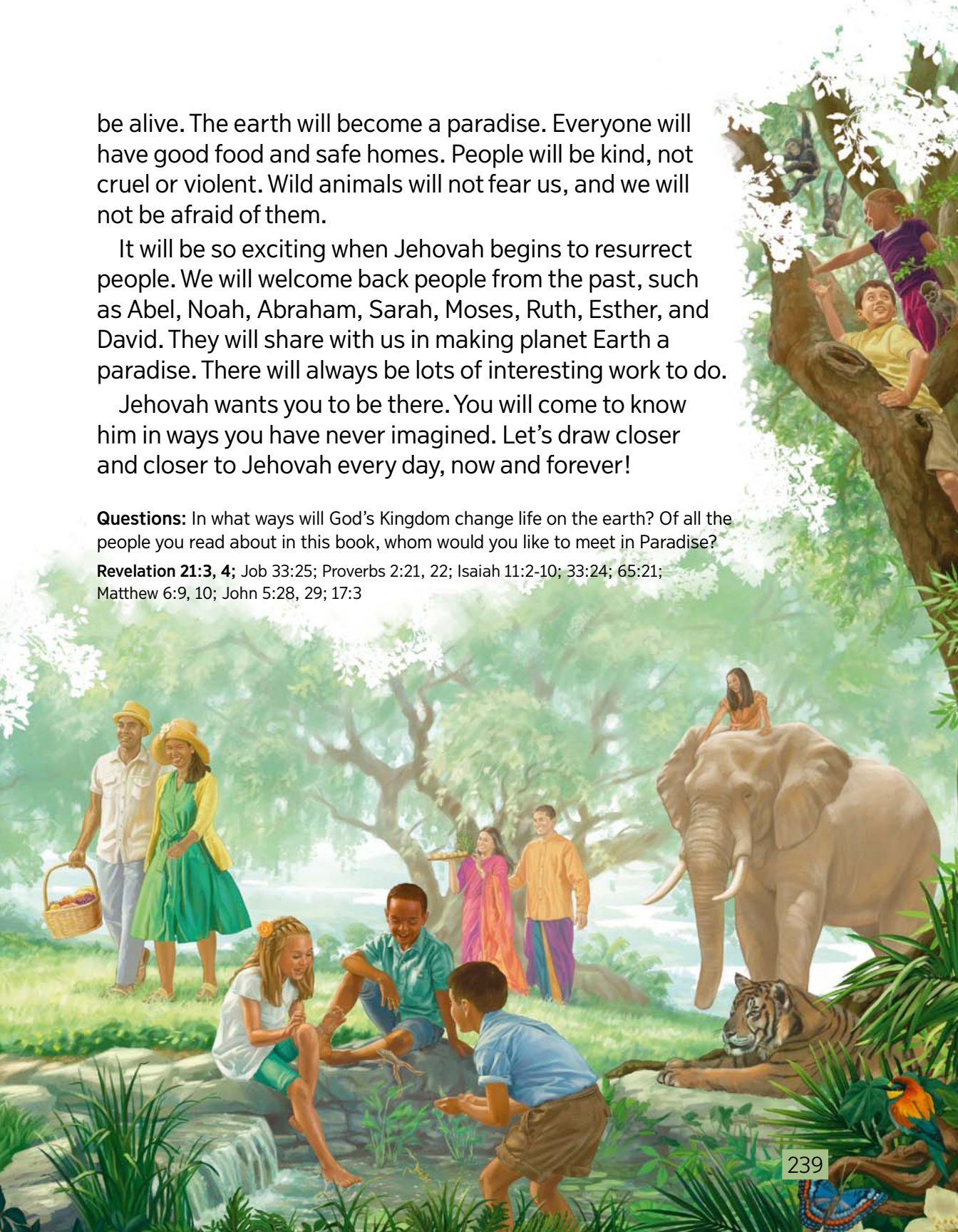
be alive. The earth will become a paradise. Everyone will have good food and safe homes. People will be kind, not cruel or violent. Wild animals will not fear us, and we will not be afraid of them.

It will be so exciting when Jehovah begins to resurrect people. We will welcome back people from the past, such as Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Ruth, Esther, and David. They will share with us in making planet Earth a paradise. There will always be lots of interesting work to do.

Jehovah wants you to be there. You will come to know him in ways you have never imagined. Let's draw closer and closer to Jehovah every day, now and forever!

Questions: In what ways will God's Kingdom change life on the earth? Of all the people you read about in this book, whom would you like to meet in Paradise?

Revelation 21:3, 4; Job 33:25; Proverbs 2:21, 22; Isaiah 11:2-10; 33:24; 65:21; Matthew 6:9, 10; John 5:28, 29; 17:3



Lessons you can learn from the Bible

	LESSON NUMBERS
All people are precious to Jehovah	8, 9, 11, 21, 23, 68, 70, 74, 87, 90
Always give thanks to Jehovah	2, 6, 67, 103
Anger is dangerous	4, 12, 41, 45, 49, 65, 89
Be courageous—Jehovah will always help you	40, 47, 51, 53, 57, 61, 64, 65, 76, 88, 101
Do not give up when you suffer	16, 47, 51, 57, 64, 75, 90, 95, 99, 101
False worship comes from the Devil	19, 20, 22, 38, 46, 49, 52, 58
Forgive others as Jehovah forgives you	13, 15, 31, 43, 92
Friends who love Jehovah are the best friends	16, 33, 42, 80, 87, 100, 103
God gave us the Bible to make us wise	56, 66, 72, 75, 81
God's Kingdom will bring happiness to everyone	1, 48, 62, 79, 81, 83, 85, 86
God's will to be done in heaven and on earth	25, 55, 60, 62, 63, 71, 96, 102
If you do not love your brother, you cannot love God	4, 13, 15, 41
Jealousy destroys friendships	4, 14, 41
Jehovah directs his people	18, 25, 26, 27, 29, 34, 39, 44, 73, 80
Jehovah is almighty	1, 7, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 55, 60
Jehovah listens when our prayers are from the heart	35, 38, 50, 64, 82
Jehovah loves people from all nations	30, 33, 48, 54, 77, 94, 97, 98, 99
Jehovah made our home—the earth	1, 2, 102, 103
Jehovah never tells a lie	3, 10, 16, 63, 68, 70, 102, 103
Jehovah protects humble people	43, 45, 65, 67, 69
Jehovah protects those who love him	6, 22, 40, 50, 52, 55, 64, 71, 84
Jehovah will always remember what we do for him	16, 29, 32, 48, 65, 69, 77, 100
Jesus is King of God's Kingdom—obey him	74, 78, 79, 83, 84, 85, 91, 92, 99
Keep your promises—Jehovah does	8, 9, 11, 23, 24, 31, 34, 35, 36, 66, 93
Listen and obey—your life depends on it	3, 5, 10, 37, 39, 54, 59, 65, 72
Make friends with Jehovah	11, 30, 33, 51, 56, 59, 69, 81, 82
Never do bad things	14, 27, 49, 53, 58, 88, 89
Protect what Jehovah gives you	12, 13, 24, 35, 36, 56, 75, 95, 100
Rebels become enemies of God	7, 17, 26, 27, 28, 88
Selfishness hurts us and others	3, 4, 12, 27, 28, 39, 49, 88
There will be a resurrection	48, 86, 91, 93
We must preach the good news of the Kingdom	73, 76, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98
The wicked will be no more	5, 10, 32, 46, 102
You cannot worship God and serve Riches	10, 17, 44, 59, 75, 76
Young ones—give your heart to Jehovah	37, 51, 59, 61, 72, 100